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A compilation of articles curated to mark World Environment Day

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Andreeva to take on Chwalinska in final

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Portfolios allocated, but disgruntlement remains in Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Portfolios were allocated for the newly-sworn in Ministers of D.K. Shivakumar-led Karnataka Cabinet late on Thursday, after hours of uncertainty, intense negotiations and disgruntlement among some of the Ministers.

Mr. Shivakumar has kept Finance and let go of the most-contested and coveted Bengaluru Development portfolio, which he held as the Deputy Chief Minister.

It has been handed to Krishna Byre Gowda. Senior Minister and eight-time legislator Ramalinga Reddy, who had sought the portfolio, has been given Major and Medium Irrigation portfolio. Unhappy, he had earlier in the day threatened to quit.

Priyank Kharge will be the new Home Minister, who will also hold IT & BT and e-governance.

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara has been given Revenue and Sports, while Eshwar Khandre has been allocated Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. Byrathi Suresh has been given Transport.

Yathindra Siddaramaiah, first-time Minister and son of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, gets Urban Development (excluding Bengaluru).

Satish Jarkiholi, K.H. Muniyappa and M.B. Patil get to retain Public Works, Food & Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Major and Heavy Industries, Infrastructure Development, respectively, that they managed in the Siddaramaiah-led government.

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5 killed, several injured in Bihar hospital blaze

Fire broke out at the ICU of a private hospital in Muzaffarpur in the early hours; State govt. forms a five-member panel to probe the incident, and announces ₹4 lakh ex gratia to the kin of victims

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

At least five patients died in a fire which broke out at the intensive care unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Muzaffarpur, north Bihar, in the early hours of Thursday. Several injured have been admitted in nearby hospitals and are said to be in a critical condition.

The Bihar government constituted a five-member committee to probe the incident and announced ₹4 lakh ex gratia to the family members of the deceased.

The blaze, which was reported to the fire department at 3:55 a.m., broke out on the fifth floor of Prasad Hospital, which lies under the jurisdiction of Brahmpura police station in Muzaffarpur town.

People carry the body of a victim after a fire broke out in the ICU of a private hospital in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, on Thursday. PTI

There were 24 patients admitted in the hospital at the time of the fire, including 13 to 15 people in the ICU, Muzaffarpur District Magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen said. All those who died were in the ICU.

"Five people died in the incident and many others were injured, who are currently undergoing treatment at different hospitals nearby," Muzaffarpur Municipal Commissioner Rituraj Singh told journalists.

Four of the deceased have been identified as Krishnandan Prasad Singh, 76, Geeta Devi, 63, and Shashank, 30, all from Muzaffarpur district; and Uday Kumar, 57, from neighbouring Sheohar district.

Short-circuit suspected

Fire and rescue personnel rescued around 15 patients, said fire official Ram Niwas Pandey. The State's Director General of Home Guard and Fire Services, Shobha Ohatker, later told reporters that the "firemen did their work commendably in rescuing people from the heavily smoke- and heat-filled hospital."

The DM said that "prima facie it appeared that a short-circuit in the equipment and air-conditioners installed at the ICU" might have sparked the blaze.

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Govt. body flagged Nicobar port lacked 'strategic' goals

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

EXCLUSIVE

The Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body that appraises large public investments, had on August 2024 termed the proposed International Container Transhipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island as lacking in "strategic objectives".

Following the August meeting, it had advised the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to include a strategic case in its proposal. A little over a year later, the same project was formally notified as a "strategic project" by the Ministry of Defence, according to records of a March 2026 meeting viewed by *The Hindu*.

The "strategic" nature of the proposed ₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Project, which consists of the ICTP, a township, airport, a gas-powered power plant, and a tourism zone, has been the Centre's excuse, since at least 2022, for not making public the contents of a report by a High Powered Committee (HPC) on the cumulative environmental impact of the project. It has also denied Right To Information requests on environmental clearances for the project on the same grounds.

The PIB's view surfaces in records of meetings held on March 17 and 19, 2026, by another Finance Ministry body – the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) – tasked with vetting project proposals worth ₹500 crore and above involving a partnership with private players.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Israel, Lebanon agree to conditional truce

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israel and Lebanon agreed on Wednesday to implement a ceasefire but said it would require a "complete cessation" of fire by Iran-backed Hezbollah, according to a joint statement after U.S.-led talks in Washington. The two sides also agreed to create "pilot zones" in which the Lebanese armed forces "will take exclusive control of the territory to the exclusion of all non-state actors".

The statement said the ceasefire was "contingent on a complete cessation" of fire by Hezbollah and evacuation of its operatives from southern Lebanon.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 18

NEARBY

Secretariats to address NRI issues, grievances

BENGALURU
Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held a meeting with officials and announced that his government will set up two exclusive secretariats, one for addressing public grievances and another to handle issues related to NRIs. » PAGE 10

First train for Blue Line arrives

BENGALURU
The BEML on Thursday delivered the first driverless train set for Bengaluru Metro's upcoming airport corridor.

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METROPLUS » PAGE 7

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India renew their acquaintance with one-off Tests

The home side locks horns with Afghanistan from Saturday at New Chandigarh in a match which doesn't have too much significance in the context of five-day cricket as it exists now

Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

R. Kaushik
NEW CHANDIGARH

India's tryst with one-off Tests dates back to June 1932, and their inaugural Test, against England at Lord's. In the intervening 94 years, they have played just 14 more such games, among them the first-ever Tests for Zimbabwe (October 1992) in Harare, Bangladesh (November 2000) in Dhaka and Afghanistan (June 2018) in Bengaluru.

There have been two standalone historic outings – the Golden Jubilee showdown against England in Bombay, as it was then, in February 1980, and against Australia in New Delhi in October 1996 to herald the installation of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as the symbol of Test supremacy between the sides. India also qualified for the World Test Championship (WTC) final in the first two editions, going down to New Zealand in Southampton in June 2021 and to Australia at the Oval in June 2023.

Nearly three years to the day (June 7) since the Oval faceoff, they renew their acquaintance with an isolated Test when they lock horns with Afghanistan from Saturday in a match which doesn't have too much significance in the context of five-day cricket as it exists now. But then again, when has there been a Test match without any significance (New Zealand's two-and-a-half-day rout of Ireland last week notwithstanding)?

Redefining the landscape

In so many ways, the WTC has redefined the landscape of Test cricket. As it is, only nine of the 12 nations are part of this championship –Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Ireland have been excluded – and even then, it isn't an all-play-all format. Every nation must play a minimum of six series, three at home and three away, with no series of less than two matches. Points are awarded for outright victories and draws – no bonus points for innings or 10-wicket wins or overseas triumphs which, pundits feel, ought to receive greater weightage – and the two top teams with the best percentage points make it to the knockout final, with the next title clash scheduled for Lord's 12 months from now.

Teams can play, and have played, full series outside the ambit of the WTC, but those are understandably not that frequent. As it is, the slant towards white-ball internationals, and particularly the T20 iteration, is marked and most nations are content meeting the bare minimum Test requirements. Very few series spill over beyond two-Test affairs, except those that India, Australia and England play against each other. These three marquee contests have become five-match pow-wows, in keeping with both their perceived standing as the three best sides in the world and the ability of these contests to attract sizeable attention.

It's nobody's fault that in their eight years as a Test entity, Afghanistan have played just 12 games while India have played 13 Tests in Australia alone. Eventually, commerce will direct such outcomes, no matter how unfair that might seem. Five of Afghanistan's 12 fixtures have come against Zimbabwe and two against Ireland; their other Test opponents, apart from India, have been Sri Lanka and West Indies (one match apiece) and Bangladesh (two games), which tells a story in itself.

It can be argued, with good reason, that those outside the WTC can't become better if they don't play against the higher-ranked teams more frequently. By the same token, it must be kept in mind that these 'higher-ranked teams' are already grappling with a packed calendar and therefore don't have either the desire or the window or both to accommodate the 'lesser lights'. One of the possible solutions is to instead have the 'A' teams of the big countries playing against the likes of Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Ireland. But again, cost is a big factor and while it is all nice and fine to sit in our living rooms and apportion responsibility to the established nations to lift the standards of the relative newbies, practicality and ideal scenarios don't always go hand in glove.

Anyway, back to this standalone contest in which the stakes might appear marginal, but only to those watching on from the outer. There is a lot more at stake for the home side, which will obviously begin overwhelming favourites in a match which won't impact the WTC, not least because of disappointing results in their backyard in the last 18 months catalysed largely by persevering rather than unplayable spinners from first New Zealand and then South Africa.

Spin trouble

News, especially bad news, travels fast and the cricket world is no exception. The justified consensus is that on spin-friendly pitches, India's batters don't inspire the same confidence as on terrific batting decks or as did masters of the recent past, the Sehwags and the Gambhirs and the Tendulkars, the Dravids and the Laxmans who feasted on spin of any quality with nimbleness of feet, deftness and softness of hands and suppleness of wrists. New Zealand and South Africa, largely through Mitchell Santner and Simon Harmer respectively, have exposed the soft underbelly that India's batting against the turning ball has come to resemble. Despite their lack of experience, Afghanistan's spinners will be licking their lips, though Hashmatullah Shahidi will rue the unavailability of talisman and former skipper Rashid Khan, on a break from the five-day game on medical advice.

New Chandigarh will not throw up a spinners' haven. It's also likely that Gautam Gambhir will, belatedly, divorce himself from his fascination for turners when Australia come calling early next year for the mandatory five-Test series in India's next home engagement. What pitches of dubious quality achieve is artificially bridge the gulf between Indian and overseas spinners. Even though India's spin aura has been significantly weakened by the retirement of R. Ashwin in December 2024, there is still enough class in Ravindra Jadeja (rested for this game), Kuldeep Yadav and Washington Sundar, among others, to test batters with their skill through the air, as much as anything else.

India have rested pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah to keep him fresh for the challenges ahead, of which there are several in the red-ball version. India travel to Sri Lanka in August for two matches and to New Zealand for two further Tests in November-December. The admittedly creditable 2-2 draw in England last summer and the 0-2 drubbing at the hands of South Africa in November have left India needing to stack up between six and seven wins in their remaining nine Tests to guarantee themselves a place in the Lord's WTC final.

Towards that end, if they can get a useful run out against the Afghans to bolster their morale, they would look at the next few days as a worthwhile exercise – and all this without the slightest disrespect to Afghanistan.

In one of those strange but staggering quirks, until this Test was belatedly added to the calendar, there was to have been no five-day game in India for the whole of 2026. There still might not be – a five-day affair, that is – but the exigencies of broadcaster obligations have dictated a slew of white-ball internationals at home even though contextually, they don't add up to a great deal. The next 50-over World Cup is still some 16 months away and there isn't a T20 World Cup until 2028, so one would have thought there would be some focus on Test cricket, but hey, what do we know?

Interesting subplots

While there won't be a great deal riding on the outcome – unless, somehow, Afghanistan conjure a miracle and slay big bad Goliath – there will be interesting subplots and plenty to prove for certain individuals within the Indian mix. On top of that list will be two vastly different – in character and style – left-handed top-order batters who are coming into the Test with contrasting fortunes in IPL 2026. Like he did last season too, Sai Sudharsan stacked up more than 700 runs, one of the main reasons for Gujarat Titans entering the final of the competition for the third time in five years. The 24-year-old from Chennai is still in his first year in Test cricket and has featured in just six games, but he hasn't had a great time of it. A mere two half-centuries in 11 innings and a modest average of 27.45 reflect his woes accurately. The think-tank, which includes his Test and Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill, rate him highly and are convinced he is the long-term No. 3, but Sai Sudharsan hasn't done a lot to justify that conviction.

The perception on the outside is that Sai Sudharsan is in a battle with Devdutt Padikkal, another left-hander, for the No. 3 slot. Padikkal, who also had a terrific IPL with eventual champs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, finished the Ranji Trophy in a blaze of personal glory after being entrusted with the Karnataka captaincy and carrying them to the final, where they lost to Jammu & Kashmir. Whether he gets the nod at one-drop, however, is the million-dollar question, with Sai Sudharsan looming as the favourite to retain his place.

The other batter seeking redemption is the once exuberant but now terribly subdued individual answering to the name of Rishabh Pant, who led India in their previous Test, a record 408-run hammering by South Africa while standing in for the injured Gill. In the last few days, Pant has lost his Test vice-captaincy and stepped down (asked to?) as Lucknow Super Giants skipper following the franchise's cellar status. Pant himself had a season to forget with the bat, the free spirit replaced by a careworn, unsmiling, often testy presence clearly adversely impacted by the string of shattering losses.

Plenty to prove

Since August 2024, Pant has been pretty much only a one-format international, and while there is no immediate threat to his Test spot (as chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar helpfully clarified while replacing him as vice-captain with K.L. Rahul), he will feel the need to prove to himself that his mojo is very much still his ally. Elevated to No. 5 in deference to his unquestioned class which has manifested itself in eight hundreds and an average of 42.91 from 49 Tests, Pant will be itching to cut loose, now that he doesn't have an official leadership responsibility riding on his shoulders.

The Afghanistan Test was seen as a great opportunity to bring Auqib Nabi, the J&K quick who finished the Ranji season with 60 wickets as he bowled his side to a historic maiden triumph, into the Test mix. The selectors deemed otherwise even though there is no Bumrah. What use a bushel of wickets then in the country's premier domestic first-class competition, you ask? We agree, whole-heartedly.

THE GIST

- Until this Test was belatedly added to the calendar, there was to have been no five-day game in India for the whole of 2026
- The perception on the outside is that Sai Sudharsan is in a battle with Devdutt Padikkal, another left-hander, for the No. 3 slot
- Pant will be itching to cut loose, now that he doesn't have an official leadership responsibility riding on his shoulders

Rashid Khan's absence is a big blow for the Afghans. FILE PHOTO: AFP

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NEW DELHI

City may get first science-based tree management framework

Visual Tree Assessments and non-invasive diagnostics is aimed at limiting damage due to tree-fall and ensure public safety

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

In the light of mass uprooting of trees in Bengaluru during heavy rains this season, the Indian Wood Science and Technology (IWST) has proposed conducting science-based Visual Tree Assessments (VTA) and non-invasive diagnostics to limit further damage and ensure public safety, according to documents accessed by *The Hindu*.

The VTA is a commonly used method for assessing the health and condition of trees.

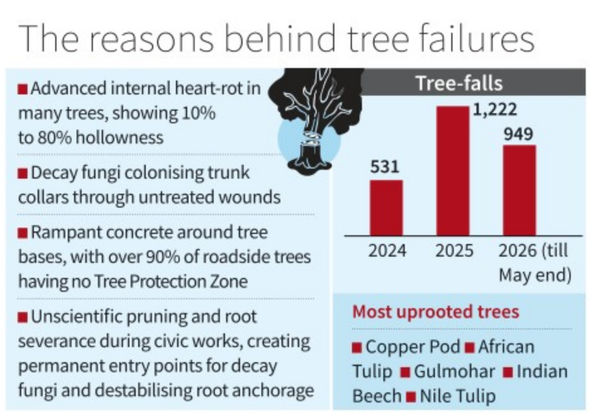
G.K. Sudarshan, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), told *The Hindu* that the proposal has been processed and would soon be presented to the five corporations.

The exercise will facilitate the phased removal of vulnerable tree species and promote the planting of native species that can withstand heavy rains and storms. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Phased removal

If implemented, this will be the first-ever effort by Bengaluru's civic bodies to manage trees through a scientific approach. The exercise will also facilitate the phased removal of vulnerable tree species in a time-bound manner and promote the planting of native species that can better withstand heavy rains and storms.

According to GBA data, 949 trees have been uprooted in the city in 2026, even before the monsoon has set in. In comparison, 1,222 trees were uprooted in 2025, while 531 trees fell in 2024.



While the trend indicates an upward trajectory, the scale of destruction is significant when viewed collectively.

The Hindu has earlier reported that ageing ornamental and softwood trees were responsible for the large-scale uprooting witnessed across the city. Most of these trees were planted at least three decades ago and now require reassessment. Citing the same concerns, the IWST, a Central government organisation, has proposed the exercise "Management of Trees in Urban Landscapes: A Science-Based Risk Assessment and Capacity Building Framework for Bengaluru City Corporations", according to the documents accessed by *The Hindu*.

Under the proposed study, the IWST will undertake a VTA of 300 prioritised roadside trees in each corporation.

Trees identified as posing a medium or high risk will subsequently undergo confirmatory non-invasive diagnostics using advanced tools such as a resistograph, sonic tomography, electric resistance tomography, and tree motion sensors.

The study is expected to result in ward-wise geotagged tree risk registers, species-specific failure risk analyses, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for scientific tree management.

A key component of the proposal is capacity building within the corporations. About 10 to 15 in-house staff members from each corporation will be trained in basic VTA techniques. This will enable civic bodies to make defensible and legally auditable decisions regarding tree retention, pruning, or removal while balancing urban tree conservation objectives.

The proposal follows a field study conducted by the IWST on 454 street trees in Malleswaram, according to the document. "The study revealed that 223 trees, or 49.1%, were unhealthy and exhibited structural defects.

The majority of these are exotic ornamental species such as Gulmohar, Copper Pod, African Tulip, and Rain Tree, which have a lifespan of 30 to 50 years and have largely exceeded this period, rendering them vulnerable to wind and rain," the proposal noted.

The budget required for the survey of the entire city is ₹4.4 crore. This means each civic body would have to spend a budget ranging between ₹70 lakh and ₹1 crore.

One arrested, six detained in wildlife trafficking probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Forest Department on Thursday arrested a man and detained six others following the seizure of several exotic animal species allegedly linked to an illegal wildlife trafficking network in the city.

Acting on a tip-off, the authorities conducted a search at a flat in Kumaraswamy Layout, where they recovered several exotic species, including ball pythons, lizards and turtles. Investigators also seized suitcases bearing airport baggage tags and other materials believed to be connected to the suspected smuggling operation.

The authorities said the probe is ongoing and further searches are being conducted at locations linked to individuals under investigation.

Among those identified as suspects in the case are Raj Kamal, associated with a private hospital in Jayanagar, Hrithik R.V. of Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and Girish Nag of Devanahalli. The investigators claimed that evidence gathered during searches suggests multiple premises connected to the suspects may have been used to house exotic wildlife.

The officials also reported recovering traces of ganja during the operation. The alleged presence of narcotics at locations where wildlife was being kept has raised concerns about animal welfare.

The authorities are examining travel records of individuals connected to the case. Preliminary findings indicate frequent travel to countries such as Thailand and Malaysia, which are known hubs for the international exotic pet trade.

The investigation has drawn additional attention because some of the individuals under scrutiny are allegedly associated with the Instagram handle "Zoo2You," which promoted wildlife education programmes in schools, colleges, apartment complexes and public events. Social media content linked to the account shows exotic animals being displayed to members of the public, including children.

This has sparked questions about the use of live exotic animals in educational and public awareness programmes. Wildlife experts stress that educational outreach involving animals must comply with wildlife laws, biosecurity protocols and animal welfare standards. The authorities are expected to examine whether schools, residential communities and event organisers that hosted such programmes were aware of the origins and legal status of the animals being displayed.

The investigators are analysing digital evidence recovered during the searches.

Woman kills two children, attempts to kill self after husband's death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old woman allegedly smothered her two young children to death and later attempted to end her life in a village in Kolar district on Wednesday, reportedly unable to cope with the trauma of her husband's recent death, on Wednesday. The incident was reported from Alangur village in Mulbagal taluk. Bujjamma, a native of Andhra Pradesh, killed her daughter Saraswathi, 3, and her one-year-old daughter, Hemashri, before attempting to end her own life. Alert neighbours intervened and rescued the woman. A case has been registered at the Nangali Police Station.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani ph: 104 for help.)

Three women robbed of gold chains in separate incidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chain-snatchers appear to be back on the prowl in Bengaluru, with three women falling victim to separate incidents in Vijayanagar, Subramanyapura and Banashankari. The police suspect the same gang may be behind all three crimes as the offences occurred within a short span of time and followed a similar *modus operandi*.

In the first incident, Renuka was walking near her home at Remco Layout in Vijayanagar when two unidentified men on a motorcycle allegedly snatched a 35-gm gold chain from her and sped away.

Based on her complaint, the Vijayanagar police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

In another case, Jayalakshmi Nayak was targeted near the Shanimahatma Temple at Chikkakallasandra in Subramanyapura. The accused, who arrived on a motorcycle, allegedly snatched her 16-gram gold chain before fleeing.

The Subramanyapura police have registered a case and are probing the incident.

A similar offence was reported near Raghavendra Coffee Hotel in Banashankari. Rashmi was on her way home when motorcycle-borne miscreants allegedly snatched her 57-gram gold chain and escaped. The Banashankari police have registered a case and initiated a probe.

The police believe the three chain-snatching incidents could be the handiwork of a single gang.

Rape attempt on student in Whitefield

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A attempt to sexually asault a 23-year-old student was reported in Bengaluru's Whitefield on June 2. The incident took place in the limits of the Whitefield Police Station around 3.30 a.m. The woman was returning to her PG accommodation after stepping out for tea when the accused allegedly began following her. The police said the accused identified as Saifal Mondal, 27, waylaid the woman on the road and allegedly tried to drag her to the other side of the street with the intention of sexually assaulting her. The victim raised an alarm, drawing the attention of nearby residents.

As neighbours rushed to the spot, the accused fled. The woman subsequently approached the Whitefield Police Station and lodged a complaint. Acting swiftly, the police registered an FIR and launched a search operation. By the same night, the police traced and arrested Mondal, a rag picker who frequented the area. Investigators said the accused allegedly targeted the woman after noticing that she was alone.

The king is here

People visit the Mango and Jackfruit Mela-2026 at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BWSSB explores creation of global water innovation hub for Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is exploring the creation of the Bengaluru Global Water Innovation Network (BGWIN), an international platform to place Bengaluru as a global water innovation hub.

As part of the proposal, the BWSSB plans to establish a Centre of Excellence with a dedicated Technology Innovation Hub focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence-driven predictive analytics, smart metering systems, decentralised water treatment technologies, water reuse solutions and advanced utility management practices.

The proposed centre would serve as a collaborative platform. The proposed network is aligned with 'Brand Bengaluru' and aims to address emerging challenges in the water and wastewater sector.

> The long-term objective is to establish Bengaluru as a globally recognised centre for water innovation and a model city for urban water security
>
> **V. RAM PRASATH MANOHAR**
> Chairman, BWSSB

Pilot-scale testing

The move attempts to bring together water utilities, government agencies, universities, research institutions, industry leaders, start-ups, investors and civil society organisations, BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said. A key feature would be the pilot-scale testing of emerging technologies before wider deployment across the city, Mr. Manohar said, adding that this approach would help reduce investment risks and improve adoption rates.

The initiative will improve urban water management in Bengaluru by promoting innovation, using technology adoption, facilitating international collaboration and creating an ecosystem to address challenges arising from rapid urbanisation, climate change and resource scarcity.

Support

Mr. Manohar said the long-term objective is to establish Bengaluru as a globally recognised centre for water innovation and a model city for urban water security.

The network is expected to support research, technology validation and capacity building, while contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals related to clean water and sustainable cities.

ED arrests MD of Deepak Cables in ₹899 crore bank fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has arrested Karuturi Venkateshwara Rao, managing director of Deepak Cables (India) Limited, in connection with an alleged ₹899.35 crore bank fraud involving a consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI).

Following his arrest on June 2 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, a special court in Bengaluru remanded him in 10 days of ED custody.

The ED alleged that Rao generated proceeds of crime and subsequently layered and integrated the funds through multiple bank accounts linked to entities operated and controlled by him. The money laundering probe stems from a CBI case registered against Deepak Cables India Ltd., Rao and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks to the tune of ₹899.35 crore.

Earlier searches conducted in the case resulted in the seizure of gold jewellery and cash

According to the agency, the company obtained substantial credit facilities from banks and diverted the funds while submitting falsified financial statements and manipulating its books of accounts to secure and continue availing itself of loans.

The ED claimed that the investigation revealed that the accused allegedly used a network of entities to create fictitious sales and purchases, engage in circular trading and issue fake corporate guarantees. These transactions were allegedly used to inflate turnover, enhance drawing power from banks, evergreen existing loans and divert funds through related companies and personal accounts to conceal their origin.

Investigators found that large amounts of loan funds were transferred to entities allegedly controlled by Rao without any legitimate business rationale. The diverted funds were allegedly routed through various channels.

Earlier searches conducted in the case resulted in the seizure of gold jewellery and cash worth ₹1.27 crore, while bank accounts holding balances of about ₹18 crore were frozen.

Evolving public health strategies to address under and over nutrition

A recent study conducted in Vellore found that prevalence of thinness and overweight began to rise sharply between ages seven and nine; double burden of malnutrition is a cause of concern in India and needs to be addressed; programmes designed primarily to combat undernutrition need to be re-thought

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

In a recent study conducted in Vellore, that followed children from birth to nine years, it was observed that while most children had a normal Body Mass Index (BMI) in early childhood, prevalence of thinness and overweight began to rise sharply between ages seven and nine. This study bolsters the results from just-released National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 6 indicating the double burden of malnutrition that India is currently facing.

The double burden of malnutrition is a term used to describe a curious phenomenon – a state where both undernutrition and overnutrition are threats to the health of the population. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malnutrition, in all its forms, includes undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), inadequate vitamins or minerals, overweight, obesity, and results in diet-related non-communicable diseases.

Coincidentally, the results of both these studies released almost simultaneously provide similar results, but the Vellore studies tell us more – at what stage does thinness and obesity set in, thus providing a way to address the issue at the right time, in order to effectively control it.

Data from the NFHS-6 records improvements in child nutrition – stunting, wasting and severe wasting have fallen compared to NFHS-5, but this is neither uniform nor even. There are still pockets in the country where the levels remain at the stage of 'significant concern'. The same data shows, at the polar end of the spectrum, a steady increase in overweight and obesity among adults (especially women and urban, wealthier groups), along with growing prevalence or risk of diabetes and high blood pressure.

The Vellore study brings new findings from a collaborative study between CMC-Vellore and ARUMDA at TIFR, and highlights a critical shift in India's nutrition challenge. Children in low-/middle-income urban communities are facing both thinness and obesity by school age. The malnutrition and enteric diseases (MAL-ED) study recruited 251 children from urban slums in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India, between 2010 and 2012, with further follow-ups conducted until age nine.

As per a paper published by Birsen Yilmaz et al in the peer-reviewed journal *Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia*, approximately 45% of children were stunted at age two. By age seven, 26.3% of children were classified as thin, and 5.2% of children were classified as overweight/obese. By age nine, the prevalence of underweight was 21.6%, while overweight/obesity had increased to 14.6%.

Interestingly, the mother's BMI was a predictor of childhood thinness, particularly at ages 5 and 9. Incidentally, when read along with data from the NFHS-6 which indicates that 30.7% of women aged 15-49 were overweight or obese in 2023-24, compared to 24% in NFHS-5, it indicates a huge trans-generational burden in India. Maternal weight is clearly an important factor in foetal and child health as well, but one that has not be sufficiently examined by policy makers in the form of maternal health interventions.

Catching them young: The Vellore study brings new findings from a collaborative study between CMC-Vellore and ARUMDA at TIFR, and highlights a critical shift in India's nutrition challenge. FILE PHOTO

Surprise element

Ullas Kolthur of ARUMDA, TIFR, one of the authors of the paper, said the surprise element of the study was not that children born with low birth weight were becoming obese, but the fact that weight-related issues begin so early in children.

Beena Koshy, of CMC-Vellore, highlights the importance of monitoring children's growth after the first 1,000 days after birth. "This is a cohort in a low-income, urban setting in Vellore, which is part of our MAL-ED group, being studied for years. In these communities, children are facing thinness, yes, but also obesity even before they enter the teens."

She explains that in the study location, the mean birth weight is 2.7 kg and 17% of children are born with low birth weight. At age two, about 45% of children are stunted, but 80% of the children have caught up by age nine. "This means the nutrition issue we face today is not only about underweight toddlers, but the entire range of nutrition sufficiency or insufficiency through childhood."

It also means our understanding of malnutrition has not been on point, or, is no longer on point. India which has had a long track record of undernutrition, wasting and stunting has come to look upon malnutrition as exclusively resting in this quarter. More recent evidence shows that it is no longer that simple at all, that there are nuances that we might be missing in childhood.

The MAL-ED study recruited 251 children from urban slums in Vellore, between 2010 and 2012, with further follow-ups conducted until age nine

Dr. Kolthur adds: "What is malnutrition? How must it be handled? We know now, from this study, that feeding all children the same diet might not be such a great idea after all. There must be differentiation in how we tailor the diets of children, early on." Dr. Koshy points out that the easy availability of packaged foods, sugary drinks and deep fried food in sachets have a huge role to play. "While these foods are available cheap, the access to healthy fruits, vegetables and proteins is still not very good."

Nihal Thomas, senior professor of Endocrinology at CMC Vellore, who was instrumental in leading efforts to offer a differential diagnosis of 'lean diabetes' (Type 5), points out that undernutrition in early life can lead to two potential trajectories. On one hand, the persistence of undernutrition, besides leading to stunting, can potentially lead to defects in insulin secretion and even situations where lean individuals develop diabetes in relation to malnutrition. On the contrary, in those with overnutrition, there is the danger of increase in overweight and subsequently increasing the risk of diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease, he explains.

Addressing the issue

At this juncture, public health experts urge a full complement of health policies that will address a judicious blend of both dietary interventions to tackle undernutrition and lifestyle interventions, including improving diet and activity. A one-sided intervention – addressing only undernutrition, and not overnutrition would be a mistake that the country can scarcely afford to make at this stage, loaded as it is with huge burdens of metabolic diseases including insulin resistance and hypertension.

The FAO has meanwhile recommended, based on case studies from six countries, that programmes once designed primarily to combat undernutrition (ICDS, school meals, PDS) now need to be re-thought to address both inadequate calories/micronutrients and poor-quality, ultra-processed, high-sugar, high-fat diets.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malnutrition, in all its forms, includes undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), inadequate vitamins or minerals, overweight, obesity, and results in diet-related non-communicable diseases

Children in low-/middle-income urban communities are facing both thinness and obesity by school age, a collaborative study between CMC-Vellore and ARUMDA at TIFR finds. One author of the paper, said the surprise element of the study was not that children born with low birth weight were becoming obese, but the fact that weight related issues begin so early in children

A one-sided intervention — addressing only undernutrition, and not overnutrition would be a mistake that the country can scarcely afford to make at this stage, loaded as it is with huge burdens of metabolic diseases including insulin resistance and hypertension

Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured

Athira Elssa Johnson
CHENNAI

Sun Protection Factor, or SPF, is designed to measure protection against ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation, the part of sunlight primarily responsible for sunburns. But it does not tell the whole story about sun protection, nor does a higher SPF automatically mean better protection. Understanding what SPF measures, and what it does not, can help in making more informed decisions about skin protection.

In standard testing, sunscreen is applied to the skin and researchers compare how much ultraviolet exposure is needed to produce redness, or erythema, on protected skin versus unprotected skin, says Katheeja Nasika, consultant dermatologist, Rela Hospital, Chennai. "If an SPF is 30, theoretically the amount of UV exposure needed to cause minimal erythema on sunscreen-applied skin would be 30 times higher than on unprotected skin," she explains.

Narayanan A., consultant dermatologist at SRM Prime Hospital, Chennai, points out however that "the testing is conducted under controlled conditions using a specified amount of sunscreen. In real life, most people apply far less sunscreen than is used during laboratory testing, meaning actual protection may be lower than the SPF listed on the label."

What do SPF numbers mean?

One of the most common misconceptions is that SPF values increase protection in a straight line. According to K.R. Sharmatha, senior consultant dermatologist, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, SPF 30 blocks about 95-97% of UVB radiation, SPF 50 blocks roughly 97-98%, and SPF 80 blocks close to 99%. The difference is one roughly one percentage point, with protection gains becoming progressively smaller at higher SPF values

While higher SPF provides somewhat greater protection, the difference between SPF 30 and SPF 50 is far smaller than most people imagine.

Shield and defence: Experts and dermatologists say that SPF 30 provides adequate protection for most people when applied correctly. GETTY IMAGES

A sunscreen's SPF value only measures protection against UVB radiation. Pushpa Gnanaraj, senior consultant dermatologist, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Vanagaram, Chennai, notes that UVA penetrates more deeply. UVA radiation is strongly linked to pigmentation, photoageing, wrinkles and loss of skin elasticity. For this reason, experts emphasise that SPF alone should not determine sunscreen choice. They recommend choosing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with PA+++ protection, which indicates protection against UVA rays as well as products that provide protection against both UVA and UVB radiation rather than focusing solely on the SPF number.

Experts also say that SPF 30 provides adequate protection for most people when applied correctly. "Anything above SPF 30 is okay for Indian skin," says Dr. Nasika. She recommends SPF 30 as a minimum, while SPF 50 or higher for outdoor sports, extended sun exposure, or individuals with photosensitive skin conditions.

Application matters

Many tend to overlook correct application. Experts recommend applying sunscreen 15 to 20 minutes before sun exposure and ensuring that exposed areas such as the face, neck, hands and forearms are covered. Reapplication is essential every two to three hours during outdoor exposure, especially after washing the face or if the product is not water-resistant. And for people working outdoors, and in sports, experts recommend waterproof formulations. High-SPF sunscreens also require regular reapplication because sunscreen do not block 100% of UV radiation. A properly applied SPF 30 sunscreen may offer better protection than an SPF 100 product applied inadequately.

The difference between the benefits that SPF 30 and SPF 50 offer is small. The more important factors are choosing a broad-spectrum product, applying it correctly, and reapplying it regularly. This summer, stay safe under the sun. Understanding SPF is less about finding the highest number and more about using sunscreen effectively and consistently.

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Yellow Line helps commuters become physically active: Study

Respondents reported shorter and more predictable travel times, lower fatigue levels and greater daily comfort

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Namma Metro Yellow Line is doing more than reducing travel time and easing traffic congestion, it is also helping Bengaluru residents become more physically active, according to a new study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The study, titled 'Assessing the Impact of Yellow Line Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) System on Public Health and Quality of Life', found that commuters who shifted from private vehicles to the metro gained an estimated 10 to 15 minutes of additional moderate physical activity during each commute day by walking to and from stations. This comes at a time when physical inactivity is a growing public health concern in the city.

The researchers surveyed around 600 commuters and households along the Yellow Line corridor, which has been operational since August 2025, and conducted follow-up interviews with 150 respondents six months after metro operations began. The baseline survey revealed that more than 58% of respondents reported no physical activity at all, with the highest inactivity levels found among young adults aged between 18 and 29.

The report noted that regular metro use introduces "incidental walking" as commuters access stations, helping many achieve a portion of the World Health Organisation's recommended physical activity levels. The study found that physical activity was a statistically significant predictor of wellbeing, while longer commute times negatively affected mental health and quality of life.

The baseline survey revealed that more than 58% of respondents reported no physical activity at all, with the highest inactivity levels found among young adults aged between 18 and 29. K. MURALI KUMAR

Key findings

- Metro users gain **10-15 minutes** of additional physical activity daily by walking to and from stations
- **58%** of respondents reported no physical activity before the metro's introduction
- Travel time reduced from up to two hours to **around 30 minutes** for some commuters
- **Lower pollution** exposure recorded among metro users compared with other transport modes
- Reduced commute stress and improved **mental wellbeing** reported by users
- High fares, poor last-mile connectivity and inadequate pedestrian infrastructure remain major barriers to wider adoption

The study witnessed a meaningful shift away from private vehicles, particularly two-wheelers and cabs, after the Yellow Line became operational. Respondents reported shorter and more predictable travel times, lower fatigue levels and greater daily comfort. Several commuters said journeys that previously took up to two hours could now be completed in about 30 minutes.

Beyond physical health, the metro was found to offer significant environmental and mental health benefits. Metro users recorded the lowest exposure to air pollution among all transport modes studied, while two-wheeler riders and pedestrians experienced the highest levels of particulate matter exposure. The report also noted that metro commuters benefit from airconditioned travel conditions, reducing exposure to extreme summer heat.

The study further found that travel satisfaction and accessibility were among the strongest contributors to mental wellbeing, while commute stress had a significant negative impact. Many respondents reported having more time for family, leisure and personal activities after shifting to the metro, leading to improved work-life balance and productivity.

However, the researchers warned that high fares, inadequate last-mile connectivity, insufficient parking facilities and poor pedestrian infrastructure around several stations remain barriers preventing wider metro adoption. The report recommended improvements in feeder bus services, footpaths, station accessibility and fare affordability to maximise the public health benefits of the Yellow Line.

Ashish Verma, principal investigator, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, said, "The study on the Yellow Line Metro Rail corridor has the potential to serve as a benchmark for understanding how shared, electric, and active mobility modes contribute not only to sustainable transportation but also to broader development goals such as liveability, public health, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability. The findings demonstrate the importance of viewing public transport investments as critical interventions for improving air quality, health outcomes, and overall quality of life."

First driverless train for Blue Line reaches Bengaluru Metro depot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as construction of the Blue Line corridor remains under way, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) on Thursday delivered the first driverless train set for Bengaluru Metro's upcoming airport corridor.

The six-coach train was transported on specially designed trailers from the BEML's manufacturing unit at C.V. Raman Nagar to the Byappanahalli Metro depot, where initial testing activities will commence.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Yashwanth Chavan, chief public relations officer of the BMRCL, said that although the new depot being developed for the Blue Line is yet to be fully operational, the train would be stationed at the Inspection Bay Line for preliminary depot trials.

He said the train would undergo extensive testing and validation procedures before being introduced for passenger operations. Once the corridor and associated infrastructure are ready, the train will be shifted for further trials on the line. The testing process is expected to continue for at least five months.

The 18-km elevated stretch between Central Silk Board and K.R. Pura is currently targeted for completion by December 2026. However, work on several stations is still in progress, raising uncertainty over whether the timeline can be achieved. The remaining 37-km section from K.R. Pura to Kempegowda International Airport is expected to be completed by December 2027 .In August 2023, the BEML was awarded a ₹3,177-crore contract by the BMRCL for the supply of 318 metro coaches.

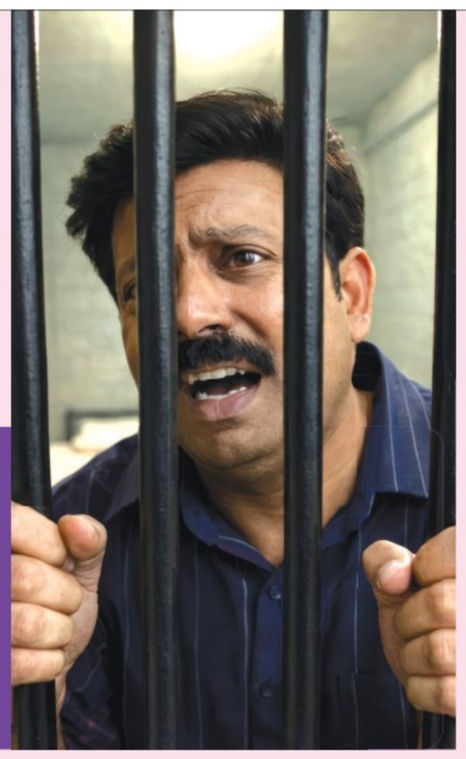
The six-coach train was transported on specially designed trailers from BEML's manufacturing unit at C.V. Raman Nagar to the Byappanahalli Metro depot. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 18-km elevated stretch between Central Silk Board and K.R. Pura is currently targeted for completion by Dec. 2026

In contrast, delays in the delivery of rolling stock had significantly affected the commissioning of the Namma Metro Yellow Line. Although the corridor infrastructure was substantially completed, passenger services could not commence due to the non-availability of trains. The delay stemmed from issues faced by the supplier contracted to provide coaches for the line. In 2019, the BMRCL awarded a ₹1,578-crore contract to the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) for the supply of 216 metro coaches. However, the company failed to meet key contractual obligations, including the establishment of a manufacturing facility in India, resulting in repeated delays in coach production and delivery.

The prolonged setback forced the BMRCL to issue multiple notices to the company and consider encashing a ₹372-crore bank guarantee. Finally to expedite the supply of the remaining coaches and clear the backlog, the CRRC subsequently entered into a partnership with Kolkata-based Titagarh Wagons for manufacturing and delivery of the trains. In 2024, the Chinese company started delivering the trains.

A money mule is a person who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else.



Don't be a Money Mule!

Your Bank Account = Your Money

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Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister

World Environment Day – 2026

Inspired by Nature, for Climate, for our Future

Date: Friday, 05.06.2026, Time: 10.00 A.M.
Venue: Tejaswi Auditorium, Parisara Bhavana, Head Office, Bengaluru

★★★

Plant more trees
Reduce the carbon footprint
Use public transport as much as possible
Clean water is precious. Use water judiciously.
Say no to single-use plastic items
Scientifically segregate and dispose of household waste.

Remember: We have only one Earth, let's protect it from the scourge of pollution.

Sri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Sri P.M. Narendraswamy, President, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board at the departmental programme.

"Protecting the natural environment is the fundamental constitutional duty of every citizen."

Issued in Public Interest by
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
Parisara Bhavan, 1 to 5th Floor, No. 49, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001,
Ph: 080 – 25581383, 25589112, Fax : 080 – 25586321, Website: ho@kspcb.gov.in

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Compensation for families affected by deadly Thrissur blast

14 In ₹ lakhs. The Kerala Cabinet on Thursday decided to provide financial assistance of ₹14 lakh each to the families of those who died in the firecracker unit blast in Thrissur district on April 21. The explosion had claimed 16 lives. The government also cleared ₹52 crore in pending paddy procurement payments to cooperative societies in Palakkad. PTI

Higher recovery target as central bank looks to boost balance sheet

3,500 In ₹ crore. The state-owned Central Bank of India expects to recover ₹3,500- ₹4,000 crore from bad loans in FY-27 as part of efforts to strengthen its balance sheet. The bank recovered ₹3,307 crore in FY-26 and plans to increase recoveries through settlement schemes and recovery drives. PTI

Bangladeshi nationals detained during anti-infiltration drive

501 Gujarat Police detained 501 Bangladeshi nationals over the past two days as part of "Operation Delta Hunt" targeting illegal stay in the country. The Statewide crackdown, launched on Wednesday, was conducted across multiple districts, with authorities describing it as a meticulously planned operation against illegal infiltration. PTI

Space sector investments sought by A.P. government

4 in $ billion. Andhra Pradesh has set a target of attracting $4 billion in investments into its space sector and has invited Russian companies to participate. Speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Minister Nara Lokesh stressed plans for a 3,000-acre Tirupati Space City and dedicated space, aerospace and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystems. PTI

Number of international routes cut by India's IndiGo

6 IndiGo on Thursday said it would suspend operations to six international destinations, including Hong Kong and Shanghai, from July 1, citing higher operating costs and broader pressure from continued airspace restrictions. The move comes a week after IndiGo reported a fourth-quarter loss, largely due to higher jet fuel costs. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is the war in Ukraine escalating?

Are civilian targets becoming central to battlefield strategy? Could the Ukraine war trigger a wider global crisis? Are external powers deepening their involvement in Ukraine? Is growing public discontent weakening support for the war in Russia?

EXPLAINER

Uma Purushothaman

The story so far:
With the war on Iran destabilising the global economy, the war in Ukraine seemed to have slipped off the news headlines. However, recent developments indicate that the war is escalating into a more dangerous and highly volatile phase.

What has changed?
In May 2026, with ground operations at a stalemate and forward movement stalled on both sides, Russia and Ukraine launched long-range aerial campaigns on each other. Both sides began targeting each other's civilian infrastructure. Ukraine scaled up its drone attacks to strike deep into Russian territory and targeted Russian economic lifelines, specifically oil refineries like the Ilsky and Novoshakhtinsk facilities as well as military logistics hubs.

Reports suggest that European nations are helping Ukraine to co-develop and mass-produce long-range missiles and attack drones, including through joint ventures. On May 21-22, a Ukrainian strike hit an educational complex in the city of Starobilsk (in the Luhansk Oblast which is Russian-held), killing 21 people (primarily young girls) and injuring 44 people. In response, Russia launched one of its fiercest drone and missile attacks across multiple cities in Ukraine, damaging civilian infrastructure and killing at least five people while injuring over a hundred people.

Russian authorities have also been publicly threatening to increase attacks in Kyiv. Again, on May 29, a drone hit a building in the Romanian city of Galati, which is seen as a violation of NATO airspace. Russia has denied responsibility. But this development throws open the possibility of NATO getting drawn into the war.

The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council was called where the UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the conflict risks spiralling "out of control" and called for an immediate de-escalation and a full and unconditional ceasefire.

However, the drone and missile attacks have continued and on June 1-2, Russia launched another massive overnight assault striking multiple locations in Kyiv and Dnipro with the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) reporting that this attack killed at least 22 civilians and injured 145.

So, this shift to long-range warfare has led to an increase in collateral damage and civilian deaths.

Moreover, on May 31, there was a drone strike on the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, increasing the risk of a nuclear accident. Ukraine denied responsibility. However, former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev warned that Russia's response could extend beyond Ukraine.

Russia still has the advantage of resources and manpower: it continues to describe the conflict as a 'special military operation' and has not called up all the manpower at its disposal, which it can if it finally declares the conflict as a 'war'. Both Russia and Ukraine at this point seem to be following the same tactic: inflict maximum pain on the other side so as to be in a stronger position if and when formal diplomatic discussions start.

Shattered ruins: A Ukrainian strike hit an educational complex in Starobilsk, a Russian-held city in Luhansk Oblast, killing 21 people, mostly young girls, and injuring 44 others, on May 21–22. REUTERS

What is the current state of the peace talks?
The U.S.-led peace talks are currently stalled. The trilateral talks between the U.S., Russia and Ukraine in Geneva in February 2026 and subsequent discussions in UAE failed to achieve any diplomatic breakthroughs. Though Russia has said it is open to talks, its maximalist position makes any agreement with the Zelensky-led government impossible. Russia wants recognition of its sovereignty over the annexed regions of Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, etc., along with a strict limit on the size and capability of the Ukrainian armed forces and a legally binding commitment that NATO troops will never be deployed in Ukraine. Ukraine, egged on by its European partners, too has adopted a maximalist position, insisting on ironclad security guarantees before any cessation of hostilities and refusing to surrender any territory to Russia. Though Europe is reportedly considering opening a line of communication with Russia, it is unlikely that Russia will consider any of the EU members or the U.K. as a mediator given their open support for Ukraine over the years.

Is Putin under pressure?
This war of attrition is obviously also damaging the economies of both the countries. Ukraine is entirely dependent on aid from its Western partners while Russia was already running a huge budget deficit of around 5.9 trillion roubles by April this year brought on by the war and Western sanctions. This is already more than the budget deficit in 2025, according to a report in the Jacobin.

Ukraine now has around 70% of the Russian population within the range of its drones, forcing Russia to divert critical air defence systems from the front lines to protect its cities, including Moscow and Saint Petersburg, putting further pressure on its economy according to an Atlantic Council Report.

Some reports suggest that Russian President Vladimir Putin is under pressure because of the stalling war and a contracting economy. Inflation is increasing as Russia has increased VAT twice this year and interest rates are high.

In April this year, Russia's Central Bank Governor, Elvira Nabiullina, warned that Russia is facing a labour shortage for the first time in its modern history. Gennady Zyuganov, the chief of the Russian Communist Party, which has been supportive of Mr. Putin and the war, has said in the Duma that economic collapse could provoke a revolution like in 1917 and has urged the government to change course.

Moreover, the Japan Times has reported that in a sign of internal friction, senior government officials have warned Mr. Putin that spending on the war in Ukraine is on an unaffordable path, though the Defence Ministry has refused cuts to its budget. It appears that public disaffection is increasing.

While some of these reports might be motivated, it stands to reason that public optimism about winning the war easily has come down given the prolonged conflict, Ukrainian attacks into deep Russian territory and rising Russian casualties. Prolonged public discontent along with more Ukrainian attacks causing collateral damage might provoke Mr. Putin into expanding the war beyond Ukraine as Russia has time and again asserted that Ukraine is being empowered and financed by its European partners to continue the war with Russia. Moscow has already said that the European facilities involved in joint production agreements of drones and missiles with Ukraine are "potential targets for the Russian armed forces". It is no secret to the rest of the world that the Ukrainian conflict is a proxy war being waged by the Western powers against Russia. There is also the chance of a miscalculation or an accident by either side which could expand the war.

If any of these scenarios take place and if NATO invokes Article 5 which states that "an armed attack against one NATO member shall be considered an attack against all members", the conflict will grow from a geographically contained one to a broader war involving NATO's frontline allies.

Ironically, the only hope against this happening is that the U.S. under President Donald Trump (who recently launched an unprovoked war on Iran along with other misadventures in Venezuela and Cuba), refuses to acquiesce with the invocation of Article 5 as this requires a unanimous decision. The more optimistic scenario is that both Ukraine and Russia admit that the conflict is at a stalemate and agree to talk. But who the facilitator for that would be is anybody's guess because it seems that Mr. Trump has lost interest in this particular conflict.

Uma Purushothaman is Associate Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

THE GIST

- Ukraine scaled up its drone attacks to strike deep into Russian territory and targeted Russian economic lifelines, specifically oil refineries and military logistics hubs.
- The war is straining both economies: Ukraine relies on Western aid, while Russia faces a soaring budget deficit of 5.9 trillion roubles due to sanctions and war costs.
- A report said senior officials warned Putin that war spending is becoming unaffordable, even as the Defence Ministry resists cuts, pointing to rising public discontent.

HC gives relief to workmen retrenched 17 years ago

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a relief to 84 workmen retrenched from service nearly 17 years ago, the High Court of Karnataka has directed a private pharmaceutical company to pay a lumpsum compensation of ₹3 lakh to each of the retrenched workmen for terminating them from service without seeking permission from the State government as per the provisions of the Industrial Disputes (ID) Act, 1947. A Division Bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice S. Rachaiah passed the order while allowing an appeal filed by retrenched workmen of Karnataka Malladi Biotics Ltd., (also known as Embio Ltd.), Mandya.

The Bench ruled that the company had illegally bypassed mandatory provisions of the ID Act by failing to seek prior government permission before laying off and retrenching 84 workers in 2009, wrongly claiming it employed fewer than 100 persons and was thus exempt from seeking such permission. Both the industrial tribunal and a single judge of the High Court had upheld the retrenchment.

The core dispute centred on whether the pharmaceutical company's workforce in its Mandya plant, which was later closed, met the statutory threshold of 100 workmen, a prerequisite for invoking Chapter V-B of the ID Act, which mandates prior government approval for lay offs and retrenchment.

The workmen, represented by the Karnataka Malladi Biotics Employees Union, had argued that the management employed 92 permanent workers, 17 security guards and 28 contract/casual labourers, taking the total workforce well above the 100-mark. The company, however, contended that it had only 92 regular employees. The tribunal and the single judge had ruled that security guards and contract labourers could not be counted as "workmen" under Section 2(s) of the ID Act.

Rejecting the company's claim, the Bench said that "any person employed in an industry to do manual, skilled, technical, or operational work for hire or reward is a workman", and that the nature of employment – whether temporary, casual, or permanent – is irrelevant. The Bench also pointed out that the direct supervision and administrative control the management exercised over the security guards and contract workers brought them squarely within the statutory definition. The court also drew an adverse inference against the company for deliberately withholding crucial employment records, including muster rolls and attendance registers of contract labourers, despite a specific order of the tribunal directing their production.

Ramaiah Group in collaboration with University at Albany launches first greenfield deemed-to-be varsity

Academic operations will begin in August from a transit campus in Yelahanka. GETTY IMAGES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ramaiah Group's Gokula Education Foundation (Medical), in collaboration with the University at Albany, State University of New York, launched the Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM), India's first distinct greenfield deemed-to-be university in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Conceived as a next-generation STEM and management university, RISM will deliver a globally benchmarked, industry-embedded engineering and management education that prioritises resilience, translational research, and measurable societal impact, Ramaiah Group said.

RISM's residential campus is being developed in Bengaluru's Information Technology Investment Region near Devanahalli, close to major innovation hubs and industry anchors. Academic operations will begin from a transit campus in Yelahanka in August 2026, with the main campus scheduled for full operation by September 2028, Ramaiah Group said. All programmes will follow a fully residential model to support holistic development through sports, culture, wellness, leadership, and entrepreneurship initiatives, creating an immersive environment where industry context, academic rigour, and research converge to build the future, the group said.

M.R. Jayaram, chairman and chancellor of RISM, said that India's education sector has lagged industry liberalisation since 1990, creating a 40-year gap between industry needs and educational outcomes. "RISM is conceived to bridge this chasm through experiential, outcome-based learning embedded with industry from day one," he said.

Havidan Rodriguez, president of the University at Albany, State University of New York, stated that higher education systems built decades or centuries ago served an economy that no longer exists. "RISM is being built from the ground up to thrive in today's rapidly changing economy – and to lead it, not just follow it," he said.

Man stabbed to death over 'illicit relationship'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old man was stabbed to death following a dispute over an alleged illicit relationship in Jagjeevanram Nagar on Wednesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Akram Pasha, 45, a resident of Jagjeevanram Nagar. He was reportedly attacked with a knife and killed in Devaraj Urs Colony in the limits of the Jagjeevanram Nagar Police Station.

Akram was working in a car decor shop and returning home from work late at night when the accused Khalid, 38, a mechanic, confronted him and stabbed him multiple times and sped away.

Passers-by rushed the injured to a nearby hospital, where the doctor declared him dead on arrival.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the crime was triggered by tensions arising out of an alleged extramarital relationship of the deceased with the wife of the accused.

A case has been registered, and efforts are on to track down the accused.

Executive Engineer B.T.D.A, Dn No.2,Bagalkot
No:EE/BTDA/Dn.2/Tender-01/2026-27/554 Dated:02.06.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited by the under signed for the works on Lumsum Turnkey Bases from registered eligible contractors.
1.Indent No: 84 Amount Put To Tender Rs. 3586.80 Lakhs (Exclusive G.S.T)And

The intending bidders for work details may login to KPPP website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tender can be submitted till 20.06.2026 up to 5:00 PM Technical bid will be opened on 22.06.2026 at 11:00 AM (if possible). And Financial bids will be opened on 24.06.2026 at 11:00 AM (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over telephone number 08534-297054.

Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events/ corrigendum/ ammendment will be published in KPPP portal only and will not be published in Newspaper.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-78/KSMCA/2026-27 **BTDA, Division No.02 Bagalkote**

GOVT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH DEPARTMENT GADAG
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TALUKA HOSPITAL NARAGUND e-mail : amotlhnrd@gmail.com
No: AMONARAGUND/MANPOWER-TENDER /2026-27/72
Date : 03-06-2026
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online tenders are invited in two bid system for the providing group d and non-clinical staff through outsource to taluk general hospital Naragund for the year 2026-27 and 16-06-2026 Last date for submission of tender. for more further information visit the e procurement website https:/ kppp.karnataka.gov.in using this tender reference no DHFWS/2026-27/SE2255 can be verified.

Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, Taluka Hospital, Naragund
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/101/2026-27

LOST AND FOUND

I have lost my Original Sale Deed pertaining to the property bearing Site No. 14, converted vide Official Memorandum dated 18.08.2012, bearing No. ALN (SB) (BH) SR:39/2012-13, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at Doddanagamangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, in the residential layout known as "Reliable Gardenia", approved by the Bangalore Development Authority vide BDA/TPM/PRL- 31/2012-13/6467 dated 13.02.2013. I purchased the above said property from Sri D.C. Jagadeesh Reddy, represented by his registered GPA Holder Sri V. Kiran, and M/s Reliable Gardenia, represented by its partners, through a Registered Sale Deed dated 25.10.2013, registered as Document No. BMH-1-06385/2013-14, Book-I, stored in CD No. BMHD651, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore.
A complaint regarding the loss of the said document has been lodged at Begur Police Station on 29.05.2026.
Reference No.: LPT No. 109/2026
GSC No.: 0219426060016
If anybody finds the said document, kindly hand it over to the nearest police station or contact the undersigned at:
Contact No : 9731281104

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Division, Bengaluru South Dist.
Short Term Tender Notification No. : 03/2026-27 Date : 01-06-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender and Short Term Tender invited from qualified contractors for the Works through KPPP Portal as per **Standard Bid Documents.** The eligible Contractors can participate in this Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Documents may be Downloaded from : 05-06-2026 & Last Date for Submission of Tender : 19-06-2026 upto 16.00 hours, Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 20-06-2026 at 16.30 hours. (If possible) Tender Processing Fees and E.M.D. as per KPP Portal. No. of Works 07, Estimate Cost Rs. 150.00 to 495.00 Lakhs.

For more information contact the above Office during Office Hours.

Note : Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Ramanagara Division,
Bengaluru South Dist.
DIPR/Ramanagar/85/Manipal/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
KANUPUR IRRIGATION PROJECT
AT/PO-BASUDEVPUR, DIST-KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN-758047
e-mail: ccekipbpur@gmail.com
"e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.: CCE, KIP (KRC&BD) - 01 /2026-27
(Pertaining to Kanpur Rehabilitation Camps & Building Division, Basudevpur)

1.	Name of the Work	As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
2.	Total No. of Package	03 (Three Nos. of Individual Work)
3.	Estimated Cost	514.77 to 685.50 Lakh
4.	Period of completion	As per Detailed Tender Call Notice
5.	Class of Contractor	"A" or "Special" Class Contractor as per Detailed Tender Call Notice
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt. 06.06.2026 from 10.00 Hours to Dt. 20.06.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
7.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	20.06.2026 up to 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)	22.06.2026 at 11.00 Hours
9.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Mahendra Kumar Behera, Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/PO-Basudevpur, Dist- Keonjhar, Odisha - 758047

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
(Er. Mahendra Kumar Behera)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha
32001/328/2627 OIPR-32001/32236/1/26-27/0001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client,(I) Mrs. Mariyamma wife of (Late) Doddahanumanthaiah, aged about 93 years, having PAN No. JJCPM8638A and Aadhaar No. 9646 0167 2411, residing at Honnenahalli Village, Rajanukunte, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru–560064 and (ii) Mr. Narayanaswamy.D. son of (Late) Doddahanumanthaiah & Mrs. Mariyamma, aged about 52 years, having PAN No. AGWPN2850P and Aadhaar No. 6588 6069 5721, residing at No.34/1, Honnenahalli Village, Rajanukunte, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 064 are the absolute owners of the property bearing Survey No. 43/1 measuring 0.06 guntas situated at Honnenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.
Our client, has discovered that the Sale Deed dated 27/01/1999, registered as Document No.5938/1998-1999, Book-1, executed by Mrs. Mariyamma, wife of (Late) Doddahanumanthaiah in favour of Mrs. Sunitha wife of Mr. Anjana Kumar *alias* Arora, duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka (hereinafter referred to as the "**Original Deed**") has been lost in transit, despite all efforts to trace the same and a police complaint has been lodged to this effect.
Any person having information or possession of the Original Deed is requested to contact us. All official charges incurred for tracing the Original Deed, will be reimbursed by Our client.
Sd/-
(1) Mrs. Mariyamma wife of (Late) Doddahanumanthaiah
(2) Mr. Narayanaswamy D. son of (Late) Doddahanumanthaiah
Contact No: 95357 08585

Date : 05/06/2026
Place : Bengaluru

Mrs. Jayashree.V
Advocate
#69, 2nd Cross, Venugopalnagar
Nagasandra, Bengaluru – 560 073.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
Estate Office, U.A.S. Raichur
No. EO/EB/UASR/TN-193/2026-27 Date: 02-06-2026
E-Tender Notification

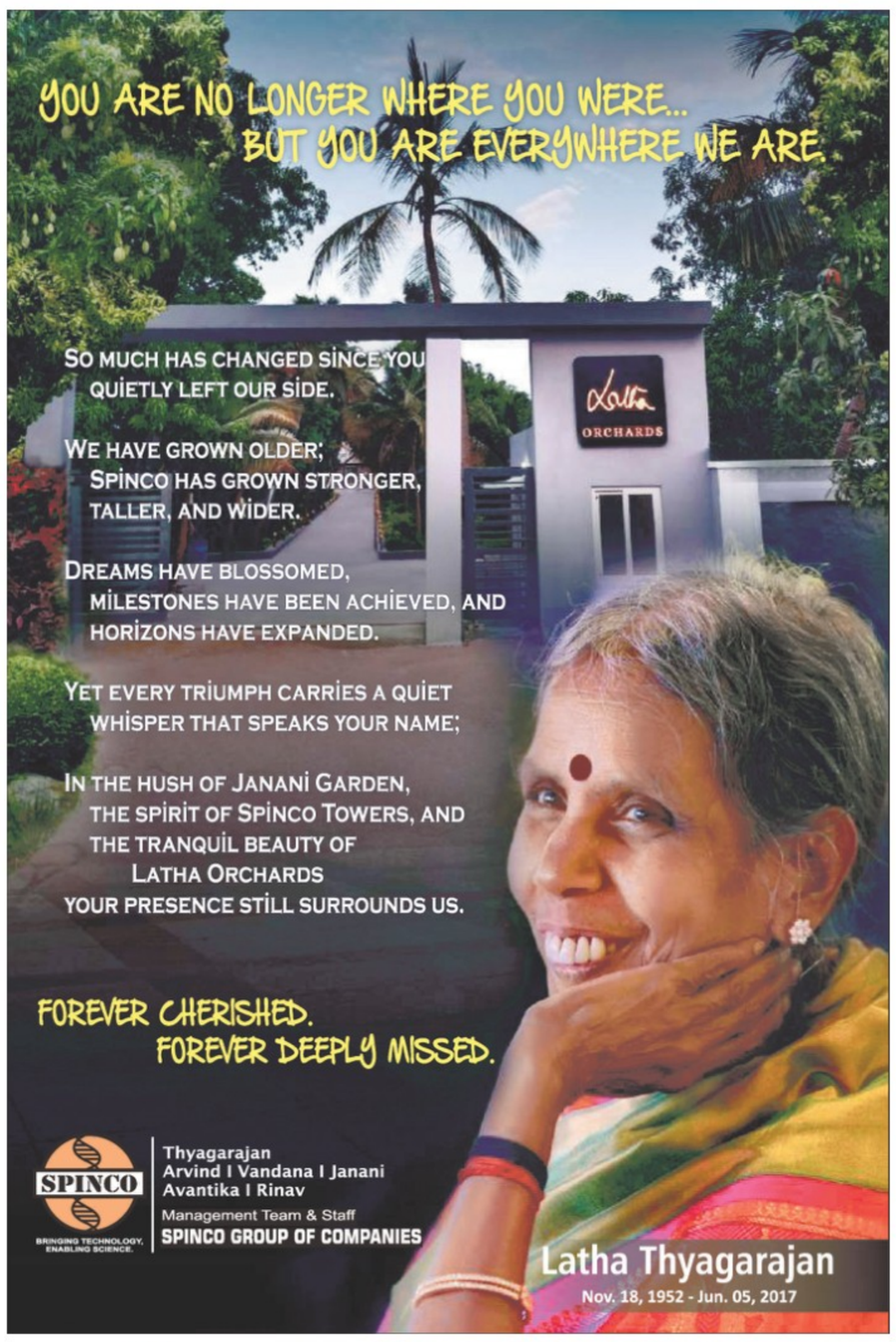
The University of Agril Sciences Raichur, has invited tenders from reputed security agencies (man power supply) through E-procurement portal for the supply of security guards through out-sourcing for the protection of University properties in the main campus and other out station campuses in Kalyan Karnataka region. The details of the notifications and conditions etc.,can be had by visiting the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:- (1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids :- 02-07-2026 Upto 16.00 hrs. (2) Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid:- 03-07-2026 At 16.10 hrs. For more details, please contact the office of the under signed during office hours (Ph. No. 08532 - 220640) and visit the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed tender notification. Also contact helpdesk number: 080 - 25501216 & 080 - 25501227

DIP/RCR/98/KSMC&A/100/2026-27 **Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER, U.A.S, RAICHUR.**

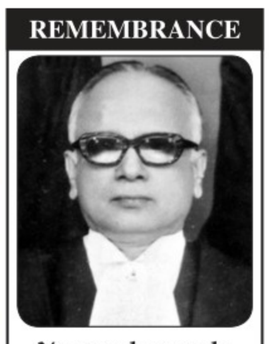
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE



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CHHATTISGARH HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
DIVISION-3 MOULSHREE VIHAR, VIP ROAD, RAIPUR
Advt.No.391

Chhattisgarh Housing and Infrastructure Development Board invites the tender for "Selection of an Agency for Development, Operation and Maintenance of a top-end cosmopolitan Social and Health clubhouse **"Queen's Club of India"**, located at VIP Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on license, Development, Operation and Transfer (LDOT) basis on PPP mode".
For bid processing fee, bid security, eligibility criteria and other details as given in the RFP document. Please visit the **website https://cghb.gov.in & http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in** for details. The bidder may also contact the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh Housing and Infrastructure Development Board, Division-3, Maulshree Vihar, Raipur over contact number 9753266721 / 6265731603
Tenderers shall download tender from cge-procurement website.
- Date and Time of Pre-bid meeting: at 12:00 PM on 19th June 2026 at Sector-19, Paryawas Bhawan, CGHIDB Head Office, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar
- Last Date and Time of online Pre-bid queries submission- on or before the above mentioned date & time.
- Last Date for Online submission of Tender- Till 03:00 PM on 07th July 2026

Note: Email id for submission of pre bid queries: cghbdiv03@gmail.com
The details of tender and terms & conditions are available on the e-Procurement website **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in** Any amendment/corrigendum in the tender documents will only be uploaded on the e-Procurement website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

Samvad-48021/5 **EE, CGHIDB, Div-3 Raipur**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYED Sab, residing at Jaigaon, Alandi, Jaigaon, Bidar Karnataka 585328, hereby declare that my father correct name is Abdul Kareem and not Kareem Sab as recorded in my documents. Henceforth, my father name shall be Abdul Kareem for all purposes. I have made an affidavit regarding this change of name before a Notary N.B. Patil on 29–05–2026, Bhalki.

I,VAKKALA Shaik Hasheem Ahmed S/o Shaik Abdul Ruf residing at No.262, 2nd Floor, 14th Cross, Karim Sab Layout, Sri Gandha Nagar Main Road, Heggana Halli, Bengaluru-560091 have changed my name to Vakkala Hasheem Ahmed vide Affidavit dated 04-06-2026 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

I, RAMGOPAL Singh Father of Naresh Kumar presrntly residing at: SMQ P-29/6, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063, have changed my name from Ramgopal Singh to Ramgopal vide Affidavit dated 04-06-2026 sworn before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

WANTED FRANCHISEE / Freelancer – Sri Venkateswara Montessori Teachers Training School (Regd) (Estd:2001). www.svm.co.in / svmdesk@gmail.com Ph: 044 2377 1088, 8939026362

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

DIRECT RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following positions in Dakshina Kannada Growers Organic Collective Farmer Producer Company Limited, a company registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The company is expanding its operations and opening new branches at Bangalore, Hassan, Mysore, Shivamogga, Mangalore, Moodbidri, Kundapura, Surathkal, Karkala & Udupi.
Available Positions : Manager, Assistant Manager, Cash Officer, Loan Officer Customer Service Officer, Field Collection Officer.
Total Vacancies : 65 Positions
Salary : Rs. 18,500 to Rs. 45,000 per month (based on qualification and experience)
Employee Benefits : ESI, PF. Eligibility : Candidates from all districts of Karnataka are eligible to apply. Last Date for Application : 20-06-2026. Contact : S. Satish Nayak +91 99804 96533, +91 94486 27226
Interested candidates are requested to apply on or before the last date.

M BG-BGE

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Caught between concrete and panic, India should not maladapt to climate change

India cannot afford to surrender its coast to the sea but that cannot become an excuse to believe it is entitled to engineer permanence, especially when such solutions risk deepening inequality, shifting vulnerability to the poorest, and locking communities into ever greater danger over time

Vasudevan Mukunth

With more than 7,500 km of coastline and millions of people living in low-lying coastal areas, India faces a dilemma that it has often been told is really a trap: use engineering solutions to hold the line, so to speak, or to beat a retreat inland. While many adaptation experts and institutions in high-income countries have favoured a 'managed retreat' in high-risk coastal areas, governments in South Asia have favoured concrete walls instead. But really, Indians' best bet is an oft-unarticulated third way.

At the COP climate summits and elsewhere, India's representatives, including its Union Environment Minister, have argued that economically developing and under-developed countries deserve an extended off-ramp regarding the use of fossil fuels because these countries cannot abruptly abandon the cheapest source of energy known without also plunging millions of people back into poverty.

There is a strong normative case to apply the same argument to coastal engineering: that using engineering to buy time is India's developmental right.

Transplanted lives: In 2018, the Odisha government moved more than 500 families in a cluster of seven villages called Satabhaya, which the Bay of Bengal had almost entirely devoured, to a rehabilitation colony in Bagapatia. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Maladaptation trap

But is it? The question arises because of social equity. That is, if a government uses its engineering off-ramp to build luxury coastal roads and high-end reclaimed cities, it is less buying time for its people and more walking into the trap of maladaptation. Put differently, engineering must not divert more investments in high-risk zones; if it does, it will only compound the catastrophe that will inevitably result as global warming continues its upward march.

For example, Nigeria has already backed a large land reclamation project dubbed the "Great Wall of Lagos". It will protect valuable real estate and a new financial district from the Atlantic Ocean even as it diverts tidal energy to neighbouring lower-income coastal areas like Alpha Beach. The irony: it will accelerate erosion at Alpha Beach in order to diminish erosion at the financial district. Similarly, to maintain its rice-producing areas, Vietnam built a vast system of high dikes – but they also prevent natural sediments from being deposited by the river, contributing to the Mekong delta sinking faster than the sea is rising.

Closer home, the Kosi river floods almost every year thanks to its massive sediment load and steep descent down the Himalaya. So as it enters the flatter plains of North India, it naturally shifts course. To control this, the Governments of India and Nepal built large embankments under the 1954 Kosi Agreement, from Bhimnagar into North Bihar. Today, because the river is so confined, silt that would normally spread across the floodplain settles on the riverbed itself, raising the water level several metres over the surrounding land. When heavy monsoon rains cause the embankments to breach or overtop, a catastrophic flood ensues.

Managed retreat

Many parts of the Global North are increasingly experimenting with 'managed retreat'. This is one of the four primary strategies for coastal adaptation that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) articulated in its Sixth Assessment Report. Managed retreat refers to the purposeful, coordinated movement of people, assets, and/or infrastructure away from areas at risk of environmental hazards. The U.N. and the International Organisation for Migration have also used the term to discuss "planned relocation" as a tool for disaster risk reduction.

As part of managed retreat, the U.S. has used programmes like the Hazard Mitigation Grants to purchase flood-prone homes at market rates prevailing before a disaster, and converting the land into permanent open space. The U.K. has used a "managed realignment", where authorities intentionally breach ageing seawalls to create salt marshes that then serve as natural buffers. New Zealand has been using "red-zoning" to keep developers from rebuilding in high-risk areas.

Overall, managed retreat has primarily taken the form of state-funded buyouts and regulatory zoning. However, it has also benefited from higher capital where it has been implemented and remains politically fraught, often sparking legal battles over property rights and sustaining a class gap whereby wealthy enclaves are fortified while marginalised communities are 'managed' away.

In India, the stakes are obviously different – and arguably higher. For one, its managed retreat has rarely been managed and often plainly chaotic: people are displaced, their social safety nets destroyed, and the poor further pauperised. For example, in 2018, the Odisha government moved more than 500 families in a cluster of seven villages called Satabhaya, which the Bay of Bengal had almost entirely devoured, to a rehabilitation colony in Bagapatia. But while the State provided housing, the families suddenly found themselves transitioning from being the owners of ancestral land to daily-wage labourers in a market for which they had no skills. There are many similar stories in the Sundarbans delta.

In 2024, the Panamanian government began to officially relocate the Guna Indigenous community from a sinking island to the mainland. While the move was 'managed' in the economic sense, the Guna people's entire identity is tied to the sea, and their new homes on the mainland lacked the ancestral connection and traditional fishing access that sustained them for centuries. Thus they faced a cultural crisis.

'Pioneers', not 'refugees'

There is a third choice hidden between concrete walls and panicked flight – a hybrid strategy that marries law, policy, and engineering. Let us start with an example this time: instead of leaving people to 'retreat' to its overcrowded capital, the Bangladesh government is currently transforming its port of Mongla into, in its words, a "climate-resilient town", with investments in new schools and factories and in creating raised infrastructure. It is a solution that attempts to preserve social equity.

In the same vein, India needs to identify 'receiver cities' in its hinterland and invest in their infrastructure now. More broadly, migration should be a choice – a voluntary plan to relocate to an economically attractive area rather than because the alternative is to drown – and India should facilitate that.

Second, a great barrier to managed retreat in India is a lack of legal land titles for its coastal residents. The country must reform its coastal land laws to formally recognise informal settlements. In turn, the state must treat people displaced by the vagaries of climate change as 'pioneers' of a new national geography who are entitled to state-supported relocation rather than as 'refugees' or even 'encroachers'.

Moving to higher ground

Third, India needs to systematically focus research on and investments into nature-based or hybrid solutions and away from seawalls and reclamation projects. Mangroves, bioswales, and artificial reefs provide a 'soft' defence while also learning to adapt to the ocean's rhythms. Concrete does not do this. Even if a government deems 'hard' engineering to be necessary to protect a critical hub like Mumbai, it must include failsafe mechanisms like buffer zones around seawalls and sacrificial floodplains.

In a tacit acknowledgment that keeping the water out is not sustainable, China has been engineering its coastal cities, including Ningbo and Shanghai, to absorb water by installing permeable pavements and rain gardens and by restoring wetlands.

Most of all, the Indian government and its leaders must not be allowed to argue at the COPs and beyond that India must be allowed to engineer its way out of climate adaptation challenges – certainly not at the expense of social equity. India stands at a crossroads: it cannot afford to surrender its coast to the sea but that is no excuse to lie to itself about the permanence of concrete. Instead, it should lay the legal and economic foundations for a dignified and equitable move to higher ground.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

S. Upendran

"...I met Shivshankar yesterday and tried to explain to him...."

"Shivshankar! I can't stand the guy. He's always in my face."

"In your face? What do you mean by that?"

"When you say that someone is 'in your face', it means that he is very confrontational. He irritates you and is ready to pick a fight with you."

"I see. That sounds like Shivshankar all right. Can I say, I am sick and tired of my boss's 'in-your-face' attitude?"

"Sounds great. When you meet Jamal for the first time you get the impression that he is one of those 'in-your-face' guys. But when you get to know him...."

"...I am not interested in knowing him. Can I say that Sujatha is in my face all the time?"

"I guess you could. I generally don't like people who are always in my face about something."

"I don't think anybody does. So, tell me. What do you think I should do? Do you think I should go? Or do you think I should stay and..."

"...I think you should go. That's my knee-jerk response."

"From the 'face', we have moved down to the knees, have we? Tell me, what does 'knee-jerk response' mean?"

"You know sometimes when you go to a doctor, he hits you on the knee with a rubber hammer. What...."

"...yeah, and when he does that the leg shoots up automatically."

"Exactly. And that's what the expression 'knee-jerk reaction' or 'response' means. To do something quickly and automatically."

"Without too much thinking?"

"That's right. Here's another example. When the politician said that he would attend the function, it was only a knee-jerk reaction."

"Every time I see Sujatha, I wince. That's only a knee-jerk reaction."

"Does she know that?"

"I don't know. And honestly, I don't really care. But tell me, what do you think I should do? Don't give me a knee-jerk response."

"OK. Well, if I were you, I would let it ride for some time."

"Let it ride! Let what ride? What...."

"When you tell someone to 'let something ride', it means that you want the person to let that something remain as it is."

"In other words, you are telling the person not to do anything about a particular situation."

"Exactly! You are telling the person not to do anything about it. Here's an example. Don't bother about cleaning the cupboard just now. Let it ride for a day or two."

"I wish my mother would say that. How about this sentence?"

"The Chairman asked Rama to have the report ready in two days' time. But she let it ride for a week before she started working on it."

"That's an excellent example. Now then, coming back to your question, I...."

"...forget it. Let it ride. It's not that important."

Published in The Hindu on November 14, 2000

Word of the day

Droll:
comical in an odd or whimsical manner

Synonyms: funny, eccentric

Usage: *The novel features a droll cast of characters who get themselves into completely absurd situations*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/droll

International Phonetic Alphabet: /drəʊl/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on the history of FIFA World Cup

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

N. Soorya Prakash

QUESTION 1
First things first. What was the name of World Cup before it was changed to the FIFA World Cup Trophy since 1974?

QUESTION 2
Who scored the first ever goal in World Cup Football history?

QUESTION 3
Which country has taken part in all the 22 editions of the Football World Cup held so far?

QUESTION 4
Which country holds the unfortunate record of reaching the World Cup final the most times but winning it only once?

QUESTION 5
Which country has reached the semi-finals the most times in World Cup history?

Visual question: Identify this player who holds a unique record in World Cup history of having played in three consecutive finals? AFP

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. On this day in 1937, a Humpty Dumpty grocery store in Oklahoma introduced the first _____. Fill in the blank. **Ans: Shopping carts**
2. This King of Great Britain and Ireland was born on this day in 1738. He remains the longest-lived and longest-reigning male monarch in British history. **Ans: George III**
3. This American basketball coach—who directed teams of the University of California at Los Angeles to 10 NCAA championships in 12 seasons (1964–65, 1967–73, and 1975)—died at age 99. **Ans: John Wooden**
4. Born on this day in 1975, this American actress is known for her roles in films *A Mighty Heart* and *Maria*. **Ans: Angelina Jolie**
5. This island country, which is part of Oceania, achieved independence within the British Commonwealth on this day in 1970? **Ans: Tonga**
6. This American musician released *Born in the U.S.A.* on June 4, 1984, which became one of his defining works. **Ans: Bruce Springsteen**

Early Birds
Arun Kumar Singh | Parimal Das | Lalchand Bhutani | Abhijith Nayak

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE HINDU GROUP

WHEN CHAOS MEETS CONVERSATION

CLARITY EMERGES

Join 30+ experts at The Hindu Huddle as they cut through the clutter and bring clarity to the chaos of today's world through dialogue, while exploring what it means for the future of India.

DAY 1 | June 5, 2026 | Taj West End, Bengaluru

Chief Guest,
D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

9:30 am to 9:50 am
Inaugural Ceremony

Welcome Address by
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

Opening Remarks by
Dr Nirmala Lakshman
Chairperson, The Hindu Group

9:55 am to 10:15 am
Government of the People: Karnataka's tryst with equitable growth

Address by the Chief Guest,
D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

10:20 am to 10:50 am
Beyond the Valley: The role of Kashmir in great power politics

Omar Abdullah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

In conversation with
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

11:10 am to 11:40 am
India-China Tango: Asian powers shaping the emerging world order

Xu Feihong
Chinese Ambassador to India

In conversation with
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

11:45 am to 12:30 pm
From the Aravallis to the Nicobar: At the edge of ecology

Jairam Ramesh
Former Union Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament (INC), Rajya Sabha

Dr Krithi K Karanth,
CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies

In conversation with
Gargi Rawat
Consulting Editor, NDTV

12:35 pm to 1:20 pm
The Power of Words: Diplomacy at a time of conflict

Hervé Delphin
EU Ambassador to India

Nirupama Rao
Former Foreign Secretary and Former Indian Ambassador to the US

Philip Green
Australian High Commissioner to India

In conversation with
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

2:35 pm to 3:20 pm
The Architecture of Leadership: Designing blueprints for a volatile world

R Ganesan
Senior Vice President & Head - Corporate Centre, L&T

Neeti Sharma
CEO, TeamLease Digital

Praveen Someshwar
MD and CEO, USL & Member, Global Diageo Executive Committee

Shailendra Katyal
VP & MD, Lenovo India

In conversation with
L V Navaneeth
CEO, The Hindu Group

3:25 pm to 4:10 pm
Students' Huddle

4:15 pm to 5:00 pm
The Matrix Can Hear You: Chatbots and mental health

Dr Amit Malik
Psychiatrist and Founder, AMAHA

Dr Prabha S Chandra
Professor of Psychiatry and Director, NIMHANS

In conversation with
Amrita Tripathi
Author and Mental Health Advocate

5:05 pm to 5:50 pm
New Avatar for the Silver Screen: The global reach of OTT

Huma Qureshi
Actor

Kritika Kamra
Actor

In conversation with
Rohit Khilnani
Journalist and Talk Show Host

**Schedule subject to change*

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On a slow charging mode

While Bengaluru leads the transition towards electric mobility, vehicle owners say inadequate infrastructure, long charging times, and high purchase cost pose challenges for wider adoption. **Darshan Devaiah B.P.** and **Mini Tejaswi** take an overview of the EV scenario on World Environment Day

Current scenario: Electric vehicles being charged at a station in Bengaluru on Thursday. India's overall EV market penetration is expected to reach approximately 10% in FY 2026-27. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Buying an electric car has been a great decision for my daily commute in Bengaluru. It is comfortable to drive, and has reduced my fuel expenses. But whenever I travel to my hometown Mangaluru, I have to stop after around 220 km, and spend nearly an hour charging before continuing the journey, says Ramya Kumari, an IT professional from Bellandur. "While EVs are excellent for city driving, long-distance travel requires careful planning around charging stations, which can be frustrating."

Her experience mirrors that of thousands of electric vehicle (EV) owners across Karnataka, where the shift towards cleaner mobility is accelerating, but infrastructure continues to lag behind demand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently urged citizens to reduce dependence on petrol and diesel, citing the need to conserve foreign exchange and strengthen India's energy security amid global uncertainties in fuel markets. Electric vehicles have emerged as a key pillar in India's strategy to reduce oil imports and lower emissions.

India's overall EV market penetration is expected to reach approximately 10% in FY 2026-27, led by robust two-wheeler sales from major manufacturers and growing four-wheeler adoption. While national public charging infrastructure has grown to over 29,000 units, deployment remains urban-centric with a high EV-to-charger ratio (235:1). Karnataka spearheads this deployment, housing 23% of the nation's chargers, though 75% of these are deployed in Bengaluru, say industry observers.

Indeed, for Bengaluru residents, EVs have become increasingly attractive due to soaring fuel prices, rising environmental awareness and government incentives. Yet, once drivers venture beyond the city limits, concerns over charging infrastructure often overshadow the benefits, like in the case of Ramya.

Says Ramya, "Whenever I drive to Mangaluru, I usually stop around Sakleshpur, where a limited number of charging points are available. During weekends or holiday periods, there can be queues. Even though the number of charging stations is increasing, it is still nowhere near sufficient for the growing number of EV users. The biggest challenge is range anxiety, constantly worrying about whether the next charging station will be available and operational before the battery runs low."

The Bengaluru-Mangaluru route, one of Karnataka's busiest inter-city corridors, illustrates the challenge. Drivers often have to plan journeys around available charging points rather than choosing the most convenient route or schedule.

Charging duration

Apart from the availability of charging stations, charging duration remains a major concern. Unlike conventional fuel vehicles that can be refuelled within minutes, EVs require significantly more time. Depending on battery size and charging capacity, a standard home charger can take anywhere between six and 12 hours to fully charge a vehicle. Fast chargers can reduce charging times to between 30 minutes and one hour for a substantial battery refill, but such facilities remain limited, especially outside cities.

For apartment dwellers in Bengaluru, even home charging is not always straightforward. Praveen S., a resident of J.P. Nagar who owns an electric vehicle, said that access to charging infrastructure within residential complexes remains a challenge.

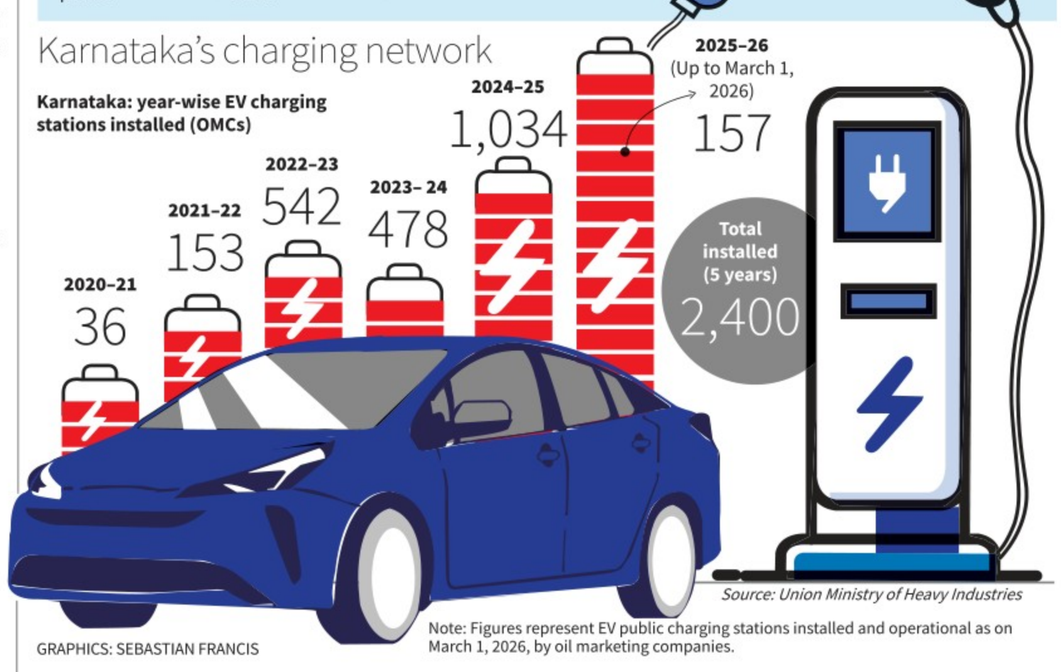
"Many people assume that EV owners can simply charge their vehicles at home. In reality, several apartment complexes were designed long before electric vehicles became common. Residents do not have dedicated parking slots or access to electrical connections required for installing personal chargers. Getting approvals from apartment associations can be time-consuming. Unless residential infrastructure evolves alongside EV adoption, many urban residents will continue facing practical difficulties," he said.

> The biggest challenge is range anxiety, constantly worrying about whether the next charging station will be available and operational before the battery runs low
>
> **RAMYA KUMARI**
> IT professional

Key concerns among EV users

- Limited charging stations outside major cities
- Range anxiety during long-distance travel
- Charging takes 30 minutes to 1 hour at fast chargers; 6-12 hours at home
- Lack of charging facilities in many apartment complexes
- Long journeys require careful route planning around charging points
- Concerns over battery degradation and replacement costs
- Higher upfront purchase cost compared to petrol/diesel vehicles

Karnataka's charging network



GRAPHICS: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Note: Figures represent EV public charging stations installed and operational as on March 1, 2026, by oil marketing companies.

On-road price

Another hurdle for many contemplating to buy EVs is the higher upfront cost of purchasing an electric vehicle. While operating costs are generally lower than those of petrol and diesel vehicles due to cheaper energy and reduced maintenance requirements, the initial investment remains substantial.

Sukesh Hegde, a resident of Yelahanka, spent months researching electric vehicles before ultimately deciding to purchase a diesel car. "Everyone talks about the benefits of EVs, and I agree they make sense in many situations, especially two-wheelers are good. But when I compared prices, I realised that a good electric SUV costs significantly more than a comparable fuel-powered vehicle. For many middle-class families, that difference matters," he said.

Hegde also pointed to uncertainty about battery life. "Lithium-ion batteries degrade over time, and replacing them can be expensive. I was concerned about what the vehicle would be worth after several years and whether battery replacement costs would offset the savings from lower running expenses."

Infrastructure growth

According to data available on the VAHAN dashboard, Karnataka registered more than 54,000 electric vehicles between January and March 2026. At the same time, the State has emerged as the second-largest hub for public EV charging stations installed by oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the country.

Data accessed by *The Hindu* shows that 2,039 EV public charging stations installed by OMCs are currently operational across the State. Karnataka had only 36 charging stations in 2020-21. The number increased to 153 in 2021-22 before rising sharply to 542 in 2022-23 amid growing EV adoption.

Although installations dipped slightly to 478 stations in 2023-24, the overall growth trajectory remained positive. The biggest expansion occurred in 2024-25, when 1,034 charging stations were added in a single year.

In the previous financial year up to March 1, 2026, another 157 charging stations have been installed. This has taken the total installations over five years to approximately 2,400 stations, of which 2,039 are operational.

OMCs comprising Indian Oil (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) have already installed close to 30,000 charging sites across their fuel retail networks and fast-charging infrastructure on highways in India. BPCL has set up EV fast-charging corridors along busy routes like Bengaluru-Tirupati. Indian Oil in partnership with Sun Mobility deployed battery swapping stations to offer quick charging to commercial fleets and three-wheelers.

IOCL is planning 608 EV charging stations across all 31 districts in Karnataka, of which 304 stations have already been onboarded. Siddharth Agarwal, executive director and State head, Karnataka State Office, Indian Oil, said all of these are fast DC chargers, enabling efficient and convenient charging. "We are planning 240 KW charging stations, which will cater to the heavy vehicles segment. Feasibility studies are being conducted and rollout is expected in the current financial year." Currently, 124 chargers are already integrated with Indian Oil's e-Charge platform. The remaining chargers are under various stages of onboarding.

HPCL's flagship brand HPeCharge, leveraging its extensive fuel retail network, has built one of the most expansive public EV charging infrastructures in the country, including Karnataka, according to the oil PSU.

Private players

EV vehicle manufacturers and infrastructure developers say Karnataka has made important strides in this segment.

Karnataka is one of the strongest examples of EV adoption, according to Ravneet S. Phokela, chief business officer at Ather Energy of Hero MotoCorp. The State was already seeing some of the highest electric two-wheeler penetration levels in the country, with EVs accounting for 13.1% of new two-wheeler registrations in FY26, supported by a strong ecosystem of startups, suppliers, manufacturers and charge point operators. More importantly, consumer behaviour has evolved, he observed, adding that concerns around range, battery life, and charging accessibility are reducing as products become more reliable and the supporting ecosystem matures.

Phokela said his company has invested extensively in battery technology, safety systems, and validation for Indian conditions. On charging accessibility, Ather claims to have over 6,000 LECCS-powered fast-charging points across India, including more than 500 in Karnataka. Bengaluru alone has over 200 fast-charging points, with charging stations typically located within 2 kilometres of one another.

Chetan Maini, co-founder and chairperson of SUN Mobility, said Karnataka, in particular, is among the States most prepared for EV transition, having been an early mover in EV policy and ecosystem development.

Investment flow

Karnataka has attracted over ₹25,000 crore in EV-related investment across manufacturing, batteries, charging infrastructure, and R&D, while also building one of the country's largest charging networks with more than 5,000 charging stations. Over the years, SUN Mobility has established a network of more than 1,700 battery swapping stations across 23 cities, supporting over 95,000 vehicles and enabling more than 60 million battery swaps, claimed the company. The company also collaborates with Indian Oil Corporation, Bescom and the Indian Railways.

A spokesperson of Tata Power, an integrated power company, said Bengaluru's technology-driven ecosystem and sustainability focused businesses have played an important role in accelerating this shift. Tata Power's EZ Charge energised over 5,500 public charging points in over 700 cities across the country, including 320 in Karnataka.

Karnataka government officials, meanwhile, say substantial investments are already under way. A senior official from the Transport Department in Bengaluru said that both the Centre and State governments are actively working to strengthen charging infrastructure.

Another official pointed to major Central government initiatives aimed at accelerating deployment. "Under the FAME-II scheme, ₹912.5 crore has been sanctioned for EV charging infrastructure across the country. Of this, ₹895.48 crore has already been released, while ₹655.43 crore has been utilised. In addition, ₹2,000 crore has been earmarked under the PM E-DRIVE scheme specifically for expanding charging infrastructure nationwide."

He added that the focus is shifting from merely increasing number of charging stations to improving reliability and accessibility. "We are encouraging deployment of fast-charging networks, supporting private sector participation and working with oil marketing companies and urban local bodies," the official said.

Ecosystem at a critical stage

Despite this progress, experts argue that infrastructure growth has not kept pace with the rapid increase in vehicle registration. Traffic and mobility expert M.N. Sreehari says, "Karnataka may have emerged as one of India's very fast growing areas of electric mobility, but the next phase of growth will depend on user confidence. The challenge is no longer convincing consumers to buy EVs. It is ensuring they can use them conveniently across the State. A driver should never have to worry about finding a charging station within a reasonable distance."

Sreehari feels that charging technology and grid integration also require attention. "The government should encourage ultra-fast charging corridors along major highways connecting Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi and Belagavi. Apartment charging regulations need to be simplified, and incentives should be provided to housing societies that install common charging facilities," he added. According to him, consumers need reliable information about battery life, operating costs and charging options.

Legal, regulatory issues

Drawing attention to another oft-ignored but key factor, Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, KS Legal & Associates, emphasised the importance of the legal and regulatory ecosystem in accelerating EV transition. While policies such as FAME, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, State-level EV policies, and renewable energy initiatives have created momentum, implementation remains fragmented.

Land acquisition for charging stations, power connectivity approvals, environmental clearances, battery waste management obligations under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, and compliance with electricity and urban development regulations continue to present practical challenges.

The next phase of India's EV journey would require greater regulatory harmonisation between the Central and State governments, municipal authorities, electricity distribution companies, and private sector participants.

"The EV transition is often viewed as a technological revolution, but it is equally a legal and regulatory transformation. Technology can create the vehicle, but laws, contracts, compliance frameworks, financing structures, and investor protections create the ecosystem within which that vehicle can operate at scale," Chandwani said.

Bridging the gap

After almost 30 years, Hamsalekha and V Ravichandran reunited on stage, much to the delight of their fans

Vivek MV
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As the evening edged towards 6pm on May 30, 2026, the crowd at the J K Grand Arena in Kengeri steadily swelled with anticipation. College students, who had once wooed their sweethearts with evergreen songs from the winning duo of composer Hamsalekha and actor-director V Ravichandran, had gathered at the venue as middle-aged adults, carrying decades of memories.

The concert Crazy Brahma, organised by Vinay Na and Vishwas of Prastut and Dr Chethana RS and Vishal RS of Kalaluha, brought back the golden partnership of Kannada cinema. The veteran duo was candid about its much-talked-about rift, setting the tone for a feel-good, breezy musical night.

"We might have got separated, but we continued to pursue what we love: music," said Hamsalekha, receiving instant applause from fans. During the promotional phase of the concert, Ravichandran had recalled the reactions to the breakup of the successful pair.

"I felt industry insiders celebrated our split more than our success. That said, when you taste success as a team, you are bound to witness a fall as well. It is part of life. Time passes, but memories don't."

The candid bonhomie between the two was apparent when Hamsalekha opened the programme with a memory that sparked their journey with *Premaloka* in 1987. Holding a lunch box, the music maestro said, "Ravichandran always visited Tirupati temple on his birthday. He gives us the famous laddu from the temple before beginning to compose. That is how we first began creating the *Premaloka* album," said Hamsalekha, celebrating the superstar's birthday with a laddu on stage.

Premaloka, which sold a whopping 36 lakh cassettes, had 12 songs, all chartbusters, and signalled a glorious journey of two creative minds. Hamsalekha and Ravichandran recorded several evergreen numbers with 150 artistes at the Prasad Studios in Chennai. "His visuals from the movie would give me goosebumps, inspiring me to compose," said Hamsalekha. "For me, his tunes challenged me to create quality visuals," added Ravichandran.

Helping the two become trend setters in the 90s was the gifted SP Balasubrahmanyam, who sang several hit songs in their projects. In a touching moment, the concert played a video of SPB from a reality show, in which the legendary singer requests Hamsalekha and Ravichandran to bury their differences.

The supremely talented Mano, known for having a striking vocal resemblance to SPB, sang the famous 'Yarivalu Yarivalu' number from *Ramachari* (1991) as a tribute to his role model. For Ravichandran, *Ramachari* brought back bitter-sweet memories.

The film resurrected his career after his *Shanthi Kranthi* (1991), India's most expensive film at the time, with a star cast of Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Juhi Chawla, Anant Nag, Khusboo, and Ramesh Aravind, bombed at the box office. "The costumes of *Shanthi Kranthi* cost ₹2 crore. For *Ramachari,* it was just ₹2000," he said with a chuckle.

Hamsalekha and Ravichandran also remembered KJ Yesudas' contribution to their film albums. At the packed concert, Yesudas' son, Vijay Yesudas, sang two of his favourite Kannada songs, both originally sung by Yesudas under Hamsalekha's composition for Ravichandran's movies. Nostalgia peaked in the audience as Vijay rendered 'Sone Sone' from *Preethsod Thappa* (1998), the duo's last project.

"I wasn't happy with the *pallavi* of the song, and a frustrated Hamsalekha had given me 40 more options. Eventually, I chose the first one he had created. Hamsalekha was sportive enough to say he got 40 options for his other projects," Ravichandran recalled.

Yesudas' other classic from *Sipayi* (1996), 'Bangarada Bombe Nanna', drew loud cheers when Vijay, Madhu Balakrishnan, and Anuradha Bhat performed the song. The concert paid tribute to the late Soundarya, the film's female lead.

"We had announced the release date of *Sipayi.* When I saw the final version of the movie, I wasn't satisfied with the visuals of 'Bangarada Bombe'. Soundarya was a busy actor. I waited for her dates, re-shot the song, and then released the movie," recalls Ravichandran.

Rajesh Krishnan and Aishwarya Rangarajan also sang hit songs while Sudharani, Umashree, and Khushboo were among the many actors who shared memories of working with Ravichandran.

As the night unfolded, two of the greatest artistes of Sandalwood had enthralled a generation of fans. The song from *Premaloka,* 'Idu nanna ninna prema geethe chinna, idu yeshtu sari haadidaru channa' (this is our love song, and it's beautiful every time we sing), was the concert's highlight and fittingly so. These love songs are irresistible and never enough.

Tripping down memory lane Hamsalekha and V Ravichandran, (above) with Vijay Yesudas. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sabudana vada and stagecraft

As Anju's Cafe in Ranga Shankara turns 20, we look at how the cafe became the heart of the institution

Comfort food Anju's Cafe, the famous sabudana vada (below). SUDHAKARA JAIN

Anagha Maareesha
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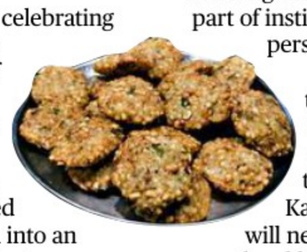
A serendipitous meeting between Anju Sudharshan and Ranga Shankara theatre's founder Arundhati Nag led to the creation of Anju's Cafe. "We met at a common friend's house. She was going out of the door and I was coming in. She called me later and asked me to take the space and start the cafe," says Anju who had been cooking for friends and family in her home kitchen then.

This year, the cafe is celebrating its 20th anniversary. At any afternoon, a mix of theatre folks, casual visitors and newbies to town who are watching a play for the first time, can be spotted at Anju's. It has evolved into an integral space for the theatre community of Bengaluru, and loved for its sabudana vada, akki roti, and annual Onasadya.



Anju moved to Bengaluru in 1987, after being born and brought up in Mumbai. "I come from a family of foodies, so I always used to cook for office parties and school events. My boss eventually told me, 'I want to fire you, so that you go and start your own food business. That is where your heart lies.' He helped me set up a kitchen 24 years ago, and we started supplying lunches to office employees." In June 2006, she took up Arundhati on her offer and opened up the cafe in the theatre. It served dishes like parathas, akki roti, pastas and sandwiches, and fresh juices (nothing aerated here).

We spoke to a number of people at the cafe, and they all mentioned the sabudana vada, or as a very young diner called it, the 'bubble vada'. The millet khichdi is also a popular choice if you want something comforting. The kheema pav and chicken salami sandwich are also fast moving dishes.

Arundhati Nag says, "Twenty years is a long time, and Anju has become part of institution. She is a very special person."

Anju reminisces when they started, some college kids used to mix their tea and coffee and named it tea-fee – a drink Rajat Kapoor fell in love with. "I will never forget when Ila Arun saw the akki roti, and said, 'Oh my god it is so sexy'. And whenever Naseeruddin and Ratna Pathak Shah come, they have their afternoon meal here."

In an age of big chain cafes or spaces are designed for Instagram, Anju's remains a space with a unique identity; she broke all the industry rules when it came to running a cafe. "Not coming from the industry worked in my favour. I never did any number crunching; I just wanted to put food on the table. I look at the cafe as an extension of my dining room."

From Melodi to Melody

Anagha Maareesha
email

Not since the early '90s, has Parle's Melody toffee has been in the public discourse like this. Two weeks ago, Indian prime minister Modi gifted a bag of Melody toffees to Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni and the moment went viral on the internet. Bengaluru-based chef Abhijit Saha has taken inspiration from this to create a special dessert menu using the nostalgic toffee. "Melody is a caramel and chocolate sweet treat. I saw that moment and thought let us do something with it."

We have all eaten the toffee as a kid but many of us may have forgotten the taste, says the chef. "You cannot really go wrong with the combination of chocolate and caramel. We have grown up with it, and it is a nostalgic flavour."

The dishes use the candy as a topping or garnishing, and the recipe themselves use flavours that are inspired by the toffee. "We have different kinds of desserts, from entremets to brownies." On the menu is a Melodi trifle, with layers of chocolate pudding, cream cheese, chantilly cream, salted caramel, and toasted caramel flakes. The Melodi Mount Vesuvius is a lava cake with a salted caramel filling. There is even a Melodi hot chocolate, made with chocolate ganache, caramel and warm milk.

Until June 7. At Rosmarino, Old Airport Road and LYFE, Whitefield. For more details, call 9606019838

High Court terms KIADB's Act of acquiring land for IMTMA as 'fraud'

Quashes the State government's 2012 notifications acquiring private lands for the benefit of the IMTMA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "acquiring land for a profitable private entity under the guise of public purpose amounts to a fraud on the Constitution", the High Court of Karnataka has quashed the State government's 2012 notifications acquiring private lands for the benefit of the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers Association (IMTMA) for constructing multi-level car parking facilities for its Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) on Tumkuru Road.

Batch of appeals

A Division Bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T.M. Nadaf allowed a batch of appeals filed by Mukesh Kumar and other landowners from Madanayakanahalli village, while setting aside a 2013 single-judge order that had partially upheld the acquisition notifications of 2012.

The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) had acquired the lands under the provisions of the KIAD Act and the landowners had challenged the acquisition by arguing that it was not for a genuine public purpose.

'Profit making entity'

"The government cannot acquire land for an individual entity of its choice at the expense and cost of poor landowners," the Bench observed while noting that that IMTMA, a charitable company managing BIEC, is a financially robust entity with substantial profits, fully capable of purchasing land through private negotiations – as it had already purchased lands through private transaction for expansion of the activities of the BIEC.

"...it is nothing but a fraud committed on statute by the authorities to divest the landowners from their land holdings for a pittance in favour of a private entity for expansion of its business and making more and more profit. This kind of exercise of power is a statutory and constitutional fraud by the State authorities," the Bench remarked on KIADB action of acquiring land in favour of IMTMA.

Final notification

Pointing out that despite the final notification being issued in 2012, no compensation award was ever passed, and not a single rupee was deposited or paid to the landowners by the KIADB, the Bench held that this inordinate delay rendered the acquisition proceedings lapsed, violating the landowners' right to an efficient and expeditious process as mandated by Article 300A of the Constitution.

Orderly development

The Bench said that the KIAD Act's objective is to establish industrial areas for orderly development, and allot lands for private companies as per the procedure for establishment their industrial/business unit, and not to acquire land for a single private entity, an act the Bench termed a "colourable exercise of power."

DSEL bans film shoots in govt. schools to protect sanctity of learning environment

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has banned filming in government schools and its premises.

Shooting of movies, short films, documentaries, television serials and video recordings for any electronic channels and social media will not be allowed henceforth.

Vikas Kishore Suralkar, Commissioner for Public Instruction, has cited safety and privacy of students and the sanctity of a learning environment in schools.

"Producers/directors are submitting proposals to the DSEL seeking permission to shoot films, short films, documentaries and serials to be telecast on Doordarshan, inside and on the premises of government schools. In this context, the permission for shooting in schools has been refused, mainly considering the safety of students, disruptions to the learning environment or school activities, and security risks," read the order.

Students engaged in group study at a government school in Yadgir district.

"The privacy and safety of students in schools is the responsibility of headmaster of the respective school and, appropriate measures should be taken to protect this. In addition, some parents do not consent to the publication of their children's pictures in the media," the order stated.

It has been stated that the refusal of permission for filming in schools is necessary to maintain school security measures and for safety reasons. In addition, it has also been stated that filming can also affect the mental health of students and cause stress.

In the light of the order, several applications seeking permission to film inside or on the school premises have been denied.

U.K. firm DSP opens GCC in city to deliver innovative solutions for global clients

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

DSP, a U.K.-based enterprise database management company, has marked its entry into India with the launch of its first overseas Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Bengaluru.

The DSP India Centre will be hosted at GoodWorks GCC Nexus in Prestige Tech Park, Bengaluru.

Major milestone

Speaking at the inauguration of the facility, Paul Cocks, Group Chief Operating Officer, DSP, said Bengaluru is a major milestone in the company's global growth journey.

The city's world-class talent ecosystem made it the perfect location to scale innovation, deepen expertise, and deliver even greater value to DSP's clients globally, the company official said. K.T. Rajan, cluster director, Technology, Innovation, Education and Skills at the British Deputy High Commission, said, "By harnessing collaboration and strategic initiatives, the U.K.-India corridor creates sustainable opportunities that strengthen global leadership and deliver lasting impact for citizens, businesses, and future generations."

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), said, "We are home to 1,000-plus GCCs employing over 660,000 professionals – 40% of India's GCC workforce – backed by 110 million sq. ft. of Grade-A infrastructure and nearly 600,000 AI and ML professionals, representing 50% of the country's AI talent. But beyond these numbers, Karnataka today is no longer a destination for cost arbitrage; it is a global innovation hub."

Mandya's first Akka Café to open in Pandavapura taluk panchayat today

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Mandya district is all set to get its first Akka Café on Friday on the Pandavapura Taluk Panchayat premises.

Presiding over a district-level committee meeting on the implementation of Akka Cafés at the Zilla Panchayat office, Mandya Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Nandini K.R. said that six Akka Café canteens, to be managed by women belonging to National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) self-help groups, are being established across the district.

Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini at an Akka Cafe in Pandavapura on Thursday.

She said the initiative aims to provide clean, tasty and affordable food in rural areas while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for women self-help groups engaged in the ready-to-eat food service sector.

Ms. Nandini said Akka Cafés have been constructed in Pandavapura, Srirangapatna and Malavalli taluks in the first phase, while facilities have also been developed in Mandya, Maddur and Nagamangala taluks under the second phase. The government is providing the necessary infrastructure and financial assistance to encourage women entrepreneurs from self-help groups. While the Pandavapura unit will be inaugurated on Friday, the Akka Café at Srirangapatna is scheduled to be launched during the second week of June. Officials have been directed to ensure that the remaining cafés become operational by July.

Two arrested for attempting to sell monitor lizard

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Kollegal CID Forest Mobile Squad has arrested two persons, who were illegally transporting a monitor lizard intended for sale near the banks of the river Cauvery at Sattegala hand post in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district. Personnel from the CID Forest Mobile Squad, reached the riverbank near Sattegala handpost around 3.15 p.m. on Wednesday and found two individuals attempting to sell a live monitor lizard kept inside an iron cage, which was wrapped with a wire mesh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **Sri.VIJAY KUMAR G K,** S/o Late Gopala Krishna N, Residing at No.13, 1st Cross, R.T.Street, Bangalore – 560053 has lost/misplaced the below referred Original Title Deed/s i.e., **(a) Partition Deed** dated 20.11.1953 Document No.3072/1953-54 and **(b) Absolute Sale Deed** dated 30.08.1954 Document No.1579/1954-55 pertaining to Old No.25, New No.23, situated at 1st Cross, Behind Ranganathswamy Temple Street, Bangalore, and a police complaint is filed before Bengaluru City Police Unit and a Lost Report bearing No.2237197/2026, dated 04.06.2026 has been obtained to that effect.

Finder may return the (a)Partition Deed dated 20.11.1953 Document No.3072/1953-54 and (b)Absolute Sale Deed dated 30.08.1954 Document No.1579/1954-55 of Book-I, pertaining to the aforesaid site to the undersigned.

If any person/institution has any claim or interest of any nature pertaining to aforesaid property, the said claims along-with supporting documents shall be filed with undersigned within **07 (SEVEN) days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

P.MANJUNATH, ADVOCATE
HM LEGAL, Office at No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560 042,
Phone No: 080 – 48145789

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)

Tender Notice

Tender Ref.No: UPMSCL/Drugs-259/10 **Dated: 03/06/2026**

e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY Of DRUGS/VACCINES

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of drugs/vaccines to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is **15/6/2026 up to15:00 Hrs.**

Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.S.Chandra Mouli s/o Late Sathya Narayana** to bring the notice of the general public that Original registered absolute sale deed doc.No.8554/1992-93 of Book-I, Volum-669, Page-13-16, dated.03.03.1993, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Krishnarajapura, Bangalore is missing /lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.15,** Katha No.221/B/6/1/15, presently EPID No.8708984808, Situated at **Left side of Basavanapura Road, Devasandra Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, now Bangalore East Taluk previously Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes within the Limits of Bengaluru East City Corporation, Ward No.53-Basavanapura and measuring East to West : northern side **31.9 feet,** southern side **30 feet** and North to South **40 feet** and bounded on the :

East by : Private Property; West by : 22 Feet Road; North by : House in Site No.14; South by : House in Site No.16.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites tender of parcel handling operations, for participation through the GeM Portal.

Tender for awarding the contract of Parcel Handling Activities of loading, unloading and shifting of non-leased/departmental parcels/luggage between various Platforms & Parcel Offices and vice-versa at Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, Sir M Visveswaraya Terminus & Yelahanka Railway Stations over Bengaluru Division, South Western Railway.

Last date for submission of bids:
16.06.2026

For details, log on: https://gem/gov/in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
Bengaluru

PUB/183/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client SRI.H.M.MOHAN KUMAR AND SMT.H.M.SARVAMANGALA to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dt. 13.06.1979 registered as document No.702/1979-80 of Book I, Volume-436 at Pages 17 to 22 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Jayanagar, Bangalore in respect of Property bearing New Municipal No.28, Old No. 137, along with house, Situated at 32nd 'C' Cross Road, 4th Block East Jayanagar, coming within the jurisdiction of the BBMP in Ward No.58, with PID No.58-77-28, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 60 ft total measuring 2400 Sq.ft., has been lost at the time of house shifting.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.050393/2019, dated 12.03.2019.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021. Tel.: 022 61884700
E-Mail : sys@pegasus-arc.com, URL : pegasus-arc.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
[RULES 8 (1)] - (For Immovable Property)

Whereas,

The undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited (PARPL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued **Demand Notice Dated 02-08-2022** ("13(2) Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co Borrowers / Mortgagors/ Guarantors namely **Mr. B R Manjunath S/o. Maradappa Rangaswamy, M/s. R S Constructions Builders and Developers, Mrs. R. Vijaya, W/o. B R Manjunath and Mr. Shashank. M, S/o. B R Manjunath** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 37,16,106.62 (Rupees Thirty-Seven Lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Six and Paisa Sixty-Two Only) outstanding as on 26-07-2022** as mentioned in the said 13(2) Notice together with further interest at the contractual rates and costs, charges and expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The credit facilities availed by the Borrowers from **RBL Bank Ltd (herein after referred as "Assignee Bank")** together with all underlying security interest and all rights, titles and interests therein have since been assigned by **RBL Bank LTD to Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as Trustee of the Pegasus Group 39 Trust 1(hereinafter referred to as "PARPL") under the aegis of the SARFAESI Act, vide Assignment of Debt Agreement dated 31.03.2021. Pursuant to aforesaid assignment and in accordance with the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, PARPL has become the lender and is entitled to recover the entire dues mentioned in the 13(2) Notice, and to exercise all its rights as a Secured Creditor under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and rules thereunder.

The Borrowers/Co Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors having failed to repay the outstanding dues mentioned in the 13(2) Notice, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the secured asset described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on **04-06-2026.**

The Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Mortgagors/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of PARPL for an amount of **Rs. 72,47,016.13 (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakh Forty-Seven Thousand Sixteen and Paisa Thirteen Only)as on 19-02-2026** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses thereon **w.e.f 20-02-2026** till the date of payment / realization.

The Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel in respect of property bearing CTS No. 2546, BMP Khatha No.18, Rasthtreeya Vidyalaya Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, having its PID No. 50-70-18, Situated at V.V. Puram, Measuring : East to West : 100 Ft. and North to South : 60 Ft. (Out of this 568 Sq.Ft. is acquired by KIADB) Presently comes within the limits of BBMP and **Presently belongs to Mr. B.R. Majunath, Smt. Vijaya and Sri. M. Shashank a**nd bounded on : **East by :** RV Road, **West by :** Road , **North by :** CTS No. 2459, **South by :** Road Kazi Street.

Authorised Officer
Date : 04-06-2026 **Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.**
Place : Bangalore **(In its capacity of Trustee of PEGASUS GROUP 39 TRUST 1)**

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021. Tel.: 022 61884700
E-Mail : sys@pegasus-arc.com, URL : pegasus-arc.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
[RULES 8 (1)] - (For Immovable Property)

Whereas,

The undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited (PARPL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued **Demand Notice Dated 02-08-2022** ("13(2) Notice") calling upon the Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors namely **Mr. B R Manjunath S/o. Maradappa Rangaswamy, M/s. R S Constructions Builders and Developers, Mrs. R. Vijaya W/o. B R Manjunath and Mr. Shashank. M S/o. B R Manjunath** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1,70,90,043.33 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Lakh Ninety Thousand Forty-Three and Paisa Thirty-Three Only) outstanding as on 26-07-2022** as mentioned in the said 13(2) Notice together with further interest at the contractual rates and costs, charges and expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The credit facilities availed by the Borrowers from **RBL Bank Ltd (herein after referred as "Assignee Bank")** together with all underlying security interest and all rights, titles and interests therein have since been assigned by **RBL Bank Ltd. to Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as Trustee of the Pegasus Group 39 Trust 1(hereinafter referred to as "PARPL") under the aegis of the SARFAESI Act, vide Assignment of Debt Agreement dated 31.03.2021. Pursuant to aforesaid assignment and in accordance with the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, PARPL has become the lender and is entitled to recover the entire dues mentioned in the 13(2) Notice, and to exercise all its rights as a Secured Creditor under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and rules thereunder.

The Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors having failed to repay the outstanding dues mentioned in the 13(2) Notice, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the secured asset described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on **04-06-2026.**

The Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of PARPL for an amount of **Rs. 2,93,00,564/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety-Three Lakh Five Hundred Sixty-Four Only) as on 19-02-2026** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses thereon **w.e.f 20-02-2026** till the date of payment / realization.

The Borrowers / Co Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel in respect of property bearing CTS No. 2546, BMP Khatha No.18, Rasthtreeya Vidyalaya Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, having its PID No. 50-70-18, Situated at V.V. Puram, Measuring : East to West : 100 Ft. and North to South : 60 Ft. (Out of this 568 Sq.Ft. is acquired by KIADB) Presently comes within the limits of BBMP and **Presently belongs to Mr. B.R. Majunath, Smt. Vijaya and Sri. M. Shashank a**nd bounded on : **East by :** RV Road, **West by :** Road , **North by :** CTS No. 2459, **South by :** Road Kazi Street.

Authorised Officer
Date : 04-06-2026 **Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.**
Place : Bangalore **(In its capacity of Trustee of PEGASUS GROUP 39 TRUST 1)**

राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार

Pariwar Kalyan Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna- 800 014
Department of Health, Government of Bihar
e-tender (NIT) Reference No.: 02/SHSB/RI/2026-27

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. The State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB), Patna intends to select agency via e-tendering for Rate Contract and Supply of Indelible Ink Marker Pens for Pulse Polio Immunization and other Programs in the State of Bihar.

2. To participate in the e-tendering process, the bidder/ agency are required to get themselves registered with Bihar Government Centralized e-Procurement portal, i.e., https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in and may contact the helpdesk at the following address, "e-Procurement HELP DESK, Mjunction Services Limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Complex, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, PS- Shastri Nagar, Patna- 800014". Toll Free Number- 18005726571 (*Working Hours: 8 AM to 7 PM, all days in the week except Sunday and few selected State holidays*)

3. Schedule of Events

S.No.	Event Description	Timeline
3.1	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	**04.06.2026 (Thursday)** at 05:00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in).
3.2	Last date & time for submission (upload) of online bidding document.	**29.06.2026 (Monday)** till 05:00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.3	Last date & time for submission of the sample (Offline Mode)	**30.06.2026 (Tuesday)** by 03:00 PM, to "The Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar, Swasthya Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014"
3.4	Date and time of Pre-bid meeting	**10.06.2026 (Wednesday)** at 03:00 PM, in the Conference Hall of State Health Society, Bihar, Swasthya Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014"
3.5	Time, Date of opening of Technical Bid	**30.06.2026 (Tuesday)** at 03:00 PM on the e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.6	Time, Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be announced later on the e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

4. The interested bidders may download the tender documents (a complete set of documents is available on website) from e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and submit the tender by using the downloaded document.
5. For further enquiry and information, please contact to the following officers over phone and also in writing through email during office hours 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
- Mr. Ram Ratan, State Programme Officer, SHSB; Mob: +91 94310 05973; email id: ribihar2013@gmail.com
- Mr. Manish Ranjan, Assistant Director (Drugs), Procurement Cell, SHSB; Mob: +91 94731 97721; email id: drugcell@gmail.com
6. All further notifications/ Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, shall be posted on e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in).

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 005070 (B & C) 2026-27

Executive Director
State Health Society, Bihar

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

LOST/MISPLACED OF LOAN AGREEMENT

This is to inform the general public that, my client Mahesha, S/o. Late Kariyappa, aged about 54 years, residing at No. 64, Uma Maheshwara Nilaya, Near Amrutanandam Ashrama, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore-560056, and one Sri. B R Srinivasa, S/o. Late Ramegowda, aged about 38 years, residing at No. 87, Badrikoppalu, TB Extension, Nagamangala, Mandya - 571432 both were executed the loan agreement dated 10-05-2016, for a sum of Rs. 30,00,000/- vide E-stamp No. IN-KA-478950706900660. The said Original loan agreement was lost/ misplaced on 20-11-2019, while travelling near Kengeri Outer ring Road at about 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m, in this regard I have lodged the E-lost complaint vide LR Report No. 2219946/2025 dated 25-05-2026. Therefore, it is hereby called upon to notify me within 15 days from the date of this publication.

GAVISIDDAPPA S,
Advocate
Bhushan Law Firm
No.3/2, 2nd Floor, Office, No.1,
Thimmaiah Towers, Gandhinagar,
1st Cross, Behind 'D' Mart,
Bangalore-560009.
Mob: 9844957177

Southwest monsoon has arrived in State, says IMD

The seasonal rainfall from June to September may be below normal in most parts of Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The southwest monsoon arrived in Karnataka on Thursday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced the arrival of the southwest monsoon in the State with rains having lashed some parts of the coastal and interior Karnataka.

"The northern limit of monsoon passes through Mangaluru, Udhagamandalam, Kodaikanal, Thoothukudi as of Thursday," the IMD said.

It further added that conditions are favourable for further advancement of southwest monsoon into some more parts of Karnataka in the next couple of days.

"The southwest monsoon has arrived as some parts of Mangaluru and Mysuru received the first rainfall on Thursday. The conditions are very favourable for further advancement of the monsoon in the next couple of days," said N. Puviarasan, head, Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru. The IMD has forecast that heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at a few places over coastal Karnataka from June 4 to June 10 and at one or two places over north interior Karnataka on Friday. It said that heavy rain is likely to occur at one or two places over interior Karnataka from June 4 to June 10. With regard to the temperature forecast, it said that there would be no large change in maximum temperature with a falling tendency for the next five days over north interior Karnataka and no large change in maximum temperature for next five days over south interior Karnataka and coastal Karnataka. The IMD has already stated that the 2026 southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall (June to September) across Karnataka is expected to be below normal in most parts of the State.

However, some regions in northeast and southeast interior Karnataka are likely to receive normal to above normal rainfall.

Clouds gather over the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. The IMD has forecast that heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at a few places over coastal Karnataka from June 4 to 10. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru lagging in voter mapping will not affect SIR: Maheshwar Rao

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With voter mapping ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls progressing at a slower pace in Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) areas compared to other districts in Karnataka, GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said efforts would be intensified to improve coverage and asserted that the current level of mapping would not affect the revision process.

As per directions issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, the E-Roll (digital version of the official voter list used by the Election Commission of India) will be frozen on June 16. Pending Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8 – used for new voters, NRI voters, objections and upgradation, respectively – will be disposed of before the freeze date, Mr. Rao said.

"Mapping is just a procedure to make the work easy and simplified for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and electors. Enumeration form will be given to every one, based on which the procedure will be taken forward. Mapping percentage, in no way, will affect the SIR exercise," he said during a press conference on Thursday. He said that work is under way to map the 2025 electoral roll and progeny with the 2002 electoral roll as part of preparatory activities and all necessary steps would be taken to ensure the inclusion of eligible voters.

Political parties have been allowed to participate in the process by submitting up to 50 forms a day to the BLOs until publication of the draft electoral roll. They will be permitted to submit not more than 10 forms a day, Mr. Rao said.

He clarified that only government department and individuals associated with government would be roped in for any kind of support or coordination. The maximum enumerators, he said, would be roped in from the Education Department.

Responding to concerns over roads damaged during the recent spell of rains despite the GBA's preparedness measures, GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said most of the major stormwater drains that had previously contributed to flooding had been rectified.

While acknowledging that some issues did emerge following the rains, he maintained that these were confined to specific localities rather than being citywide and added that mitigation works are continuing. "The GBA will come up with a plan to address flooding in vulnerable areas," he added.

Political parties have been allowed to participate in the process by submitting up to 50 forms a day to the BLOs until publication of the draft electoral roll. FILE PHOTO

Protect voters' rights during SIR, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday asked senior officials to work towards protecting the voting rights of people during the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State.

In his maiden meeting with senior officials, the new Chief Minister sought to highlight the role to be played by officials in protecting the voting rights during the SIR process and asked them to set up SIR help desks.

"No one should lose their voting rights in the SIR," he said, asking officials to create awareness on the process. Pointing out that there may be a need for voters to provide documents to defend their voting rights, Mr. Shivakumar told officials to help such persons to get the required documens.

Be a good administrator, Vishwanath advises DKS

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Critic of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, A.H. Vishwanath, BJP MLC, hailed the appointment of D.K. Shivakumar as the new Chief Minister, and urged him to prove that he can be as good an administrator as he is an organiser.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Mr. Vishwanath said that Mr. Shivakumar, who has risen from being an ordinary worker in the 1980s to the position of Chief Minister, has proven to be a good organiser in the party. Now, the time had come to prove himself to be a good administrator, Mr. Vishwanath said urging the new Chief Minister to prioritise education and health.

Expressing hope that Mr. Shivakumar would address several administrative gaps in the previous regime, Mr. Vishwanath said there is still much more work to be done in Mysuru.

He added that the residents of the city and district are looking forward to positive developments during Mr. Shivakumar's rule. Further endorsing the choice of party leader B.K. Hariprasad for the post of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, Mr. Vishwanath noted that Mr. Shivakumar as Chief Minister and Mr. Hariprasad as the KPCC chief would make a good combination.

The BJP MLC pointed out that parties are built by their workers, but ruined by their leaders. A former Congressman himself, Mr. Vishwanath expressed confidence that Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Hariprasad would successfully advance the party's interests.

Mr. Vishwanath appreciated Mr. Shivakumar's decision to not only seek the blessings of veteran politicians like former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and senior Congressman Mallikarjun Kharge, but also pay visits to temples.

A.H. Vishwanath addressing presspersons in Mysuru on Thursday. M.A. SRIRAM

Free bus pass for all students: Educationists, student organisations welcome move

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AIDSO Karnatka State Committee urges govt. to implement the scheme right from the beginning of the academic year

Educationists and student organisations have welcomed the State government's decision on extension of free bus pass scheme for all students of schools and colleges.

Niranjanaradhya V.P., Developmental Educationist, said, "We welcome the government's decision to extend the free bus pass facility that was already available to all female students in Karnataka. This has been a long-standing demand that has been fulfilled now. This will be of great help to students, especially from poor and underprivileged communities in completing their education." The students organisations such as All India Democratic Student's Organization (AIDSO) and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) have also welcomed the government's decision.

While welcoming the move, the AIDSO Karnatka State Committee urged the government to implement the scheme right from the beginning of the academic year without any technical glitches.

Government announces 50% waiver on pending traffic fines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The order was issued with the concurrence of the Finance Department and will come into effect from June 21

In a major relief to vehicle owners, the State government on Thursday announced a 50% concession on pending traffic e-challan fines and certain transport department penalty cases.

The waiver will be available from June 21 to July 10, allowing motorists to settle long-pending violations by paying only half the prescribed fine amount.

The decision was taken following a proposal from the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority ahead of the National Lok Adalat scheduled for July 11.

According to the Government Order issued by the Transport Department on Thursday, the concession applies to all pending traffic e-challan cases registered by the police department up to May 2026.

The benefit has also been extended to cases recorded by the Transport Department between 1991 and 2022 that remain unpaid. Vehicle owners can avail themselves of the scheme during the 20-day window and have their cases closed by paying 50% of the outstanding penalty amount.

Officials said similar schemes implemented in the past had received an encouraging response. During the last concession period in November-December 2025, over 77.4 lakh traffic violation cases were settled, resulting in the collection of nearly ₹201 crore in fines.

In addition, 902 transport department cases were resolved, generating about ₹29.66 lakh in revenue.

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority informed the government that despite previous settlement drives, a large number of cases remain pending, with an estimated ₹2,827 crore still recoverable. The latest concession is expected to encourage motorists to clear their dues and reduce the backlog of pending cases.

The order was issued with the concurrence of the Finance Department and will come into effect from June 21.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 05
RISE 05:53 SET 18:44
RISE 22:48 SET 09:46

SATURDAY, JUN. 06
RISE 05:53 SET 18:44
RISE 23:28 SET 10:36

SUNDAY, JUN. 07
RISE 05:53 SET 18:44
RISE 00:00 SET 11:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	32	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Kannada Sahithya Academy to release 54 books on women achievers from Karnataka

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Kannada Sahithya Academy (KSA) is set to release 54 books on women personalities from Karnataka, written by various authors from across the State, on Friday.

L.N. Mukundraj, president of Kannada Sahithya Academy, explained that there are far fewer books available in the market that cover women personalities who have excelled in various fields including science, social work, medicine, art and theatre, politics, journalism, literature, etc.

Shortlist

"Hence, we decided to get these books written by various authors and researchers. A meeting was conducted to shortlist 50 such personalities but we were able to shortlist 54 finally," he said.

Mr. Mukundraj said, "Later, we shortlisted people who have conducted research on these people or those who were closely acquainted or worked with them. When we reached out to these people, they were more than ready to write these books. We also formed a committee of two women editors—H.L. Pushpa and Meenakshi Baali—to oversee them, followed by subeditors to edit these books."

Book priced at ₹80

The Kannada Sahithya Academy has priced each book at a nominal ₹80. "We want people to understand women's struggles and their achievements in their fields. Some of the books include Kempanan-jammanni Devi by Divya K.L., Sara Aboobacker by Sabiha Bhoomi Gowda, Rehamanavva Kalmani by H.S. Patil, Leelavathi Devadas by Rita Rini, Kamala Hampana by Chitthaiah Pujar, Gauri Lankesh by Mallige Sirimane and others," he said.

Ms. Sirimane, an activist who worked closely with the late activist-journalist Gauri Lankesh, said, "Through this book, I have attempted to tell people about her life, struggles and achievements in the field of journalism. She represented the voices of people and strongly opposed the decisions and policies that were against the interest of public."

"I accompanied her in most of her assignments and saw her closely as a human being and as a journalist," Ms. Sirimane added.

Gauri Lankesh

Kamala Hampana

Sara Aboobacker

> Through this book, I have attempted to tell people about her (Gauri Lankesh) life, struggles and achievements in the field of journalism
>
> **MALLIGE SIRIMANE**
> Activist

Dattatraya Patil Revoor booked

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The police have registered a case against the former BJP MLA from Kalaburagi South Constituency Dattatraya Patil Revoor over his remarks saying that Congress leaders and the State government are making attempts to turn Kalaburagi into "Pakistan".

The case was registered at the Station Bazaar Police Station following a complaint by social activist Azgar Yusuf Hussain.

Police sources said that a case has been registered under Sections 353(1)(b) and 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is under way.

Mr. Revoor made the remarks during a BJP protest staged in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kalaburagi on Monday against the State government's decision to withdraw cases related to the Aland communal violence. The protest was led by BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra.

Addressing a gathering, Mr. Revoor referred to the former Minister Qamar-ul-Islam and said that he [Islam] had once spoken of making Kalaburagi a "chhota Pakistan" (mini Pakistan).

He claimed that while earlier leaders had failed in such an attempt, the present leaders and the government are once again trying to shape Kalaburagi on the lines of Pakistan.

Further, he went on to say that Mr. Islam had lost an election to his father, the late Chandrashekar Patil Revoor, after making such a statement, and asserted that the people will once again teach a lesson.

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Secretariats will be set up to address grievances and NRI issues, says DKS

The proposed secretariat for handling public woes will be headed by a Minister and it will mainly look into the demands of organisations staging protests, announces the new Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Getting down to work on the first day after taking oath, new Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday held a meeting with senior officials and announced that his government will set up two exclusive secretariats: one for addressing public grievances and another to handle issues related to NRIs.

Briefing presspersons after a meeting with top-ranking officials including those from the police and the Forest Department, Mr. Shivakumar said the proposed secretariat for handling public grievances would be headed by a Minister.

This will mainly look into the demands of organisations and associations that stage protests. The secretariat will hold meetings with representatives of protesting organisations, examine if their demands were justified and look into addressing them.

Taking charge: Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar holding a meeting with officials in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NRI investments

The Chief Minister also stated that another exclusive secretariat would be set up to look into issues related to NRIs. Appropriate changes would also be made to relevant laws to facilitate NRIs to invest in Karnataka, he said.

Asserting that his government would not yield to any caste and religious influences or pressure, he asked the bureaucracy to work towards delivering good governance by responding to the aspirations and problems of people.

He called upon officials not to yield to pressure from any quarter.

"I want you not to go out of the legal framework by yielding to pressure. Work in a transparent manner and as per your conscience," he said.

He directed the district in-charge Secretaries to submit proposals within 25 days on the works that could be taken up in their districts within the available financial resources.

He asked them to take up regular visits not only to district headquarters, but also to all taluks coming under districts assigned to them.

He directed all government departments to come out with an action plan within 15 days on programmes that have to be taken up including those that have been listed in the State Budget.

'Misuse' of scheme

Referring to queries related to collection of details on consumers who are beneficiaries of free power supply under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, Mr. Shivakumar said there were complaints that some consumers were misusing free power supply for commercial purposes. Similarly, some of them had multiple electricity meters in their names. Hence data was being collected in this regard to help streamline the scheme, he noted.

Police told to set up anti-rowdy squad in every taluk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Every taluk will now have an anti-rowdy squad as Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar issued directions in this regard to senior police officials on Thursday.

Briefing presspersons after his meeting with senior officials in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said each squad should have about 10 members.

Mr. Shivakumar said he had sought a report from the officials on implementation of six new schemes announced by him on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister expressed concern that though there was an indication that ₹8,000 crore in CSR funds was being spent in Karnataka, there was no clue on where exactly it was being spent.

Hence the government will ask authorities concerned to provide details on the CSR funds being spent and ensure it is used for government schools.

After Cabinet formation, heartburn and hopes of aspirants continue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With many Congress legislators aspiring to be in the Cabinet, the first phase of ministry composition has had mixed reactions from the hopefuls. While there was a hope of many new faces being inducted, barring Yathindra Siddaramaiah and U.T. Khader, the remaining 11 were part of the ministry of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Now all aspirants – both those seeking fresh entry and those who were in the earlier ministry – will await the expansion expected to be taken up after the Rajya Sabha elections.

Several other Ministers in Mr. Siddaramaiah's Cabinet are also learnt to be unhappy and some have expressed it openly. Former Law Minister H.K. Patil, who was not among the 13 Ministers sworn in on Wednesday, said in a cryptic post on X, "The path is always tough for those who believe in ideology. Let us agree to high command's decision."

New team: Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, along with newly sworn-in Cabinet colleagues K.H. Muniyappa, Sharan Prakash Patil, and others in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hardly any new faces

An angry senior legislator from Kalyana Karnataka region told *The Hindu*, "I was promised a Cabinet berth, but not accommodated. This has happened in the past too. I am disappointed. I will not try again. Leaders have looked after their personal interests."

He said leaders had said that those already in the Cabinet would be deployed for party work and fresh faces would be inducted. "What happened to that promise? Those who enjoy power have continued to do so," he said.

One of the about 30 legislators elected multiple times, who had been to Delhi to lobby for Cabinet berths, expressed dismay at the decision to go with the same set of Ministers.

A three-time legislator, whose name was being speculated strongly earlier, said that he was hopeful of entering the Cabinet during the expansion. "The real intensity of disappointment will be known after the Cabinet expansion," he said.

Meanwhile lobbying is expected to intensify in the coming weeks as the expansion is most likely after the Rajya Sabha election on June 18 and before the end of June, since the Monsoon Session of the Karnataka Legislature will be held in July. "Ministers need to be given time to prepare for the sessions," a leader said.

Party sources said that lobbying has not only intensified from legislators elected multiple times, but some first-time legislators are also pushing hard. There are over 50 aspirants from across regions from the Assembly.

The party is also under pressure to accommodate more Legislative Council members into the Cabinet. Of the 13 Ministers sworn in, Dr. Yathindra is the only MLC.

According to Congress Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, a Cabinet hopeful himself, in the Karnataka Legislative Council, there is a demand to induct at least three to four MLCs as Ministers.

Nomination for RS: Rahul in city today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will be in Bengaluru on Friday to be with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during the filing of nominations for the Rajya Sabha polls. Besides Mr. Kharge, the other two candidates are Mansoor Ali Khan, son of former Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman K. Rahman Khan, and Pawan Khera, Congress media and publicity department chairman.

Mr. khan unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Bengaluru Central and Mr. Gandhi's first press meet on "Vote Chori" referred to his constituency.

Come out with White Paper on Karnataka's financial condition, says Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to come out with a White Paper on the State's finances reflecting on management of finances by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his last three years of governance.

> If the Congress government has nothing to hide, then let the new Chief Minister come out with a White Paper on the State's finances
>
> **R. ASHOK,**
> Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly

Similar exercise

In a social media post, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok referred to Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan coming out with a White Paper soon after assuming office and urged Mr. Shivakumar to do a similar exercise in Karnataka.

He maintained that people of the State had a right to know the contribution of Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also held the Finance portfolio, to the State's finances.

"If the Congress government has nothing to hide, then let the new Chief Minister come out with a White Paper on the State's finances," Mr. Ashok remarked.

Congress likely to push for its own candidate for post of Legislative Council Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress is likely to push its candidates for the post of Chairman and Deputy Chairman in the Karnataka Legislative Council ahead of the Monsoon Session, expected to be held in July.

Sources said that so far, the party had not tried to replace Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, the eight-time legislator and the senior most member of the House, since the Congress did not have a clear majority. Though there was speculation in January that the party would move to replace Mr. Horatti, sources said that the confusion over leadership had prevented such a move.

Looking ahead: The Congress is expected to get a clear majority in the Legislative Council after the polls for seven seats scheduled on June 18. FILE PHOTO

"No, this move is likely to help the Congress accommodate legislators seeking Cabinet berths or other posts," sources said.

Numbers in Council

The Congress is expected to get a clear majority after the polls for seven Council seats to be elected by members of the Legislative Assembly scheduled on June 18. Currently, the Congress has 37 members in the 75-member Upper House and is likely to get the support of the lone Independent, Balachandra Jarkiholi.

Also, the term of five more members who are nominated by the government will end in July, which will provide further boost to the Congress's numbers in the Council.

A long-time Janata Parivar leader, Mr. Horatti was elected to the Upper House on a BJP ticket.

Along with the Chairman, the Congress will also seek to replace Deputy Chairman M.K. Pranesh, a BJP member.

JD(S) likely to field

While the Congress is assured of winning four seats and the BJP two seats, one seat is expected to be keenly fought as they do not have the required numbers to ensure the victory of their candidates.

The Congress has already announced the names of four candidates, while the BJP is yet to do so.

Janata Dal (Secular) sources said that the party is likely to field a candidate as a part of the NDA alliances.

"It may become difficult for the Congress to win the fifth seat as the alliance has a number close to the 29 vote mark required to ensure victory. B.M. Farooq could be fielded along with two BJP candidates," sources said. The possibility of cross-voting for this seat is highly likely, sources said.

Sources in the Congress said that though the party will contest the seat, it may not announce the name till the last moment.

Hariprasad to play balancing act between govt. and Congress ahead of 2028 polls

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The appointment of veteran Congress leader and four-time Rajya Sabha member B.K. Hariprasad, 72, as the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president is widely viewed as a strategic move aimed at strengthening the party organisation and maintaining factional balance ahead of future electoral battles.

Strategic move: B.K. Hariprasad's elevation as KPCC president assumes significance at a time when D.K. Shivakumar has taken over as the Chief Minister. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three-tier structure

Strongly rooted in the Congress culture, the OBC leader's elevation assumes significance at a time when D.K. Shivakumar has taken over as Chief Minister. Political observers believe the Congress high command is attempting to create a three-tier leadership structure in Karnataka. Under this arrangement, Mr. Shivakumar would focus on governance, Mr. Hariprasad on party organisation, and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on providing ideological and political guidance.

The appointment also reflects the high command's preference for organisational experience over factional considerations. Although several senior leaders, including Ministers Satish Jarkiholi and Eshwar Khandre, were reportedly in contention for the post, Mr. Hariprasad's selection underscores the importance the party leadership places on administrative and organisational capabilities.

A long-time loyalist of the Congress and the Gandhi family, and a trenchant critic of Hindutva politics, Mr. Hariprasad, MLC, has held several key positions in the party, including AICC general secretary and organisational responsibilities across multiple States. His appointment is expected to strengthen the influence of the party's central leadership in Karnataka while ensuring that organisational decisions remain aligned with the national leadership's priorities.

Significantly, Mr. Hariprasad becomes the third Billava leader to head the KPCC after former Chief Minister S. Bangarappa and former Union Minister B. Janardhana Poojary, well-known for the "loan mela" in the 1980s, adding a social dimension to the appointment. The community has a sizeable presence in the coastal and Malnad districts of the State.

Balancing equations

The leadership transition from Mr. Siddaramaiah to Mr. Shivakumar required careful management of competing interests within the State Congress. After turning down an offer to enter the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Siddaramaiah's induction into the CWC is seen as part of a broader effort to maintain equilibrium among various power centres within the party.

Mr. Hariprasad, who is not identified exclusively with the camps of either Mr. Siddaramaiah or Mr. Shivakumar, is expected to serve as a neutral organisational figure. His role could be crucial in preventing the concentration of excessive power in any faction and preserving internal cohesion.

Cadre building

Having entered student politics in the early 1970s, Mr. Hariprasad is regarded as a seasoned organisational strategist. His experience in youth mobilisation and cadre management is expected to be utilised in strengthening the party's grassroots network.

The Congress leadership appears keen to begin preparations early for the 2028 Assembly elections by focusing on booth-level organisation, cadre expansion, and outreach among youth and backward-class communities, rather than relying solely on the performance of the government.

Despite his organisational credentials, Mr. Hariprasad faces several challenges. Unlike Mr. Shivakumar, who built a formidable political and financial network, Mr. Hariprasad is not known for large-scale mass mobilisation or resource mobilisation. Though he belongs to a OBC community, he also does not have the electoral charisma of Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Another challenge will be maintaining a smooth coordination between the government and the party organisation. Any divergence between the two centres of power could revive factional tensions within the State unit.

Nevertheless, Mr. Hariprasad's appointment signals the Congress high command's determination to prioritise organisational stability, ideological coherence, and internal balance.

CMYK
M BG-BGE

From Page One

Portfolios allocated, but disgruntlement remains

Who got what

D. K. Shivakumar: Chief Minister - Finance, Cabinet Affairs, Intelligence, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms and all unallocated portfolios

G. Parameshwara: Deputy Chief Minister - Revenue and Sports

K.H. Muniyappa: Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs

K.J. George: Energy and Tourism

M.B. Patil: Large and Medium Industries, Infrastructure Development

Ramalinga Reddy: Major and Medium Irrigation

Satish Jarkiholi: Public Works

Krishna Byre Gowda: Greater Bengaluru Development

Priyank Kharge: Home (excluding Intelligence), Information Technology and Bio Technology, E Governance

U.T. Khader: Health and Family Welfare

Eshwar Khandre: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

Yathindra Siddaramaiah: Urban Development Department (excluding Bengaluru)

Byrathi Suresh: Transport

Sharan Prakash Patil: Medical Education and Skill Development

K.J. George gets Tourism in addition to Energy that he held earlier.

Sharan Prakash Patil has also retained his earlier portfolios Medical Education and Skilll Development. U.T. Khader, who resigned as Speaker to join the Cabinet, got Health and Family Welfare.

Contentious issue

Allocation of Bengaluru Development portfolio is likely to continue to be a contentious issue, especially ahead of the impending civic polls in Bengaluru.

Mr. Shivakumar held the portfolio being the Deputy Chief Minister since the Congress government came to power in 2023.

Trouble, it is learnt, was brewing since late on Wednesday night after the new Ministers were informally told about the portfolio being allocated to them.

Mr. Reddy, one of the senior most Congress leader from Bengaluru, is learnt to have aired his disappointment after being told that he would get an "important portfolio", but that Bengaluru Development would go to Mr. Gowda.

Sources close to him said that he had been promised by Mr. Shivakumar that the portfolio would be given to him, which did not happen, leading to his dismay.

White Paper puts Kerala's liabilities at ₹5.07-lakh crore

Salaries, pensions, and interest payments consumed 77.6% of revenue receipts in 2025-26; reforms sought in KSEB, KSRTC, and KWA; State faces shortfall of ₹20,500 crore in Central transfers

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Talking point: The White Paper was tabled in the Kerala Legislative Assembly on Thursday by Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan. ANI

Painting a bleak picture of State finances, a White Paper tabled in the Kerala Legislative Assembly on Thursday by Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan observed that "behind Kerala's social achievements lies a fiscal structure that is under serious and growing strain."

Kerala faces a "large burden" of outstanding liabilities (₹5.07 lakh crore), committed expenditures [77.6% of Total Revenue Receipts (TRR)], and interest payments (20.9% of TRR), the document, 'Kerala's Fiscal Health: A Status Report,' drafted by a committee headed by former Union Cabinet Secretary K.M. Chandrasekhar, noted.

Mr. Satheesan, who also handles the finance portfolio, said Kerala faces a shortfall of approximately ₹20,500 crore in Central transfers in 2026-27 due to "wild" guesswork made by the previous LDF government in the Budget estimates. "The fiscal situation is very vulnerable. Outstanding liabilities amount to 35.5% of the Gross State Domestic Product," the Chief Minister said.

Committed expenditure – salaries and wages, pensions, and interest payments – consumed 77.6% of the revenue receipts in 2025-26, according to the White Paper. "For every ₹100 Kerala receives in revenue, ₹77 is already committed, leaving only ₹23 for schools, hospitals, roads, welfare, capital investment, and support to local governments," it said.

The White Paper calls for urgent reforms in the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), the Kerala State Transport Corporation (KSRTC), and the Kerala Water Authority (KWA).

The State's capital expenditure at 1.3% of the GSDP is "one of the lowest" among Indian States despite running one of the highest fiscal deficits, it said.

Four children drown near Ongole in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
ONGOLE

Four boys, including three siblings, drowned in a pond near Ongole in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. Their bodies were retrieved by the police and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel.

According to police, the deceased were aged between 10 and 14 years. All were residents of Cheruvu Kommu Palem village of Prakasam district. "Acting on the complaint lodged by the parents and the family members, the police launched a search operation, along with the NDRF teams. After four hours of search, they retrieved the bodies from the pond," a police officer said.

Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy spoke to the District Collector and Superintendent of Police about the case.

'Not received resignation letter from Annamalai'

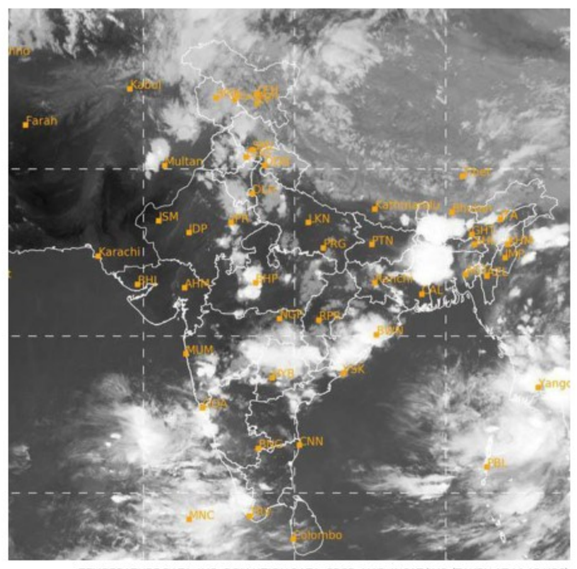
The Hindu Bureau
TIRUNELVELI

Days after former BJP State president K. Annamalai met the party's national leadership to convey his decision to exit the party, BJP Tamil Nadu president Nainar Nagenthran on Thursday said he had not received any resignation letter from Mr. Annamalai.

When asked about reports that Mr. Annamalai would soon float a political outfit after resigning from the BJP, Mr. Nagenthran told journalists at his residence in Palayamkottai that the former BJP State president had not [publicly] said anything in this connection. According to him, the media was magnifying the issue and making a mountain out of a molehill. "Mr. Annamalai, who is still discussing personal and familial matters with me, has not said anything about quitting the BJP. We have no difference of opinion," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.5	28.0	Kurnool	10	37.3	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	41.4	28.6	Lucknow	—	39.3	28.6
Aizawl	—	31.5	23.2	Madurai	—	38.0	26.6
Bengaluru	—	31.2	20.9	Mangaluru	5	30.1	24.1
Bhopal	11	37.4	20.0	Mumbai	—	34.7	28.0
Bhubaneswar	—	39.8	26.0	Mysuru	3	31.0	20.6
Chandigarh	—	38.9	25.0	New Delhi	—	40.5	29.7
Chennai	—	40.4	30.4	Patna	—	40.2	29.8
Coimbatore	0.2	34.4	22.6	Port Blair	114	27.5	22.8
Dehradun	—	36.2	23.4	Prayagraj	4	39.8	26.0
Gangtok	70	23.5	16.5	Puducherry	1	38.8	28.0
Goa	4	33.0	25.6	Pune	—	37.7	26.1
Guwahati	—	34.5	26.6	Raipur	—	42.0	30.5
Hubballi	—	32.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	35.6	24.0
Hyderabad	0.6	38.7	27.2	Shillong	3	26.4	17.2
Imphal	—	30.3	20.0	Shimla	—	29.5	19.5
Jaipur	—	39.9	26.4	Srinagar	—	23.4	15.0
Kochi	80	29.0	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	24	31.2	25.5
Kohima	—	26.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	39.1	27.0
Kolkata	9	37.6	28.6	Vijayawada	—	41.4	29.4
Kozhikode	10	32.1	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.1	29.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.42	133	27	33	92	
Bengaluru	.11	.43	45	—	114	
Chennai	5	6	31	41	87	
Delhi	.35	.60	48	153	226	
Hyderabad	.15	.15	35	62	86	
Kolkata	8	.23	14	83	101	
Lucknow	.12	.11	46	142	102	
Mumbai	.13	103	30	26	46	
Pune	.23	.25	40	33	45	
Visakhapatnam	9	.38	14	66	128	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 310 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com

No.KSAPS/STI/RPKT/1/2026-STI **Dated: 03/06/2026**

Invitation for Tender (Two Cover) through e-Procurement

Tender (Two Cover) are invited for supply of RPR Test kits for Syphilis testing under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender on **25.06.2026 at 5.30pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/973/NR/2026-27

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
No.16C, Maulana Azad Bhavan,Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560 052. **Telephone: 080-22535901/918/Helpline:8277799990**

Notification

No: MWD/D/HOSTEL AD/CR-05/2026-27 **Date: 03.06.2026**

Online applications are invited for Post-metric hostels (P.U.C, ITI & Diploma students only) of Minority Welfare Department.

Online Applications are invited for admission into post-metric boys/girls hostels (P.U.C, ITI & Diploma students only) in the Minority Welfare Department for the year of 2026-27 from the students of Minority Community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Sikh, Buddha and Parsi students and belonging to Other Castes (SC, ST & other Backward Caste) of the Karnataka.

- Students are advised to apply online for this link **https://shp.karnataka.gov.in**
- **Last date to apply online for Post-metric hostels(P.U.C, ITI & Diploma students only) is 30.06.2026.**
- Student's family annual income should not exceed **Rs.2.50 Lakhs.**
- For details of taluk-wise student hostels, eligibility for admission & details of documents to be submitted. Visit : **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
- In case of technical difficulties while applying online application you can contact through **Email:directorgokdom@gmail.com OR Website:- https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/976/MAA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka.
Office of the Town Panchayat Aurad(B)
Email:- ka.aurad.tp@gmail.com Website:- www.auradtown.gov.in

No. TPA/WorksTender/CR- /2026-27 Date: 02/06/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Indent No WORK_ INDENT58675 WORK_INDENT 57955, 2) Estimated cost As per e-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per e-portal, 4) EMD amount As per e-portal 5) Last date for submission of tender **06 -07 -2026,** 6) Technical bid opening **07 -07-2026** 7) Address for communication Town Panchayat Aurad(B),email : ka.aurad.tp@gmail.com, 8) Website WWW.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer,
Town Panchayat Aurad(B)
DIPR/Bidar/47/KSMC&A/2026-27

(DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION)
Karnataka Text Book Society(R)
6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003
E-mail:mdktbs.tender@gmail.com **Website:**https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in
No.A7/E104450/KTBS/ADM/PUTN/2/2026/KTBS/26-27/IND0020 Date: 04.06.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

07 days Short term Tender is invited under Two Bid System **for the year 2026-27 on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible Printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to Print and Supply PUC Text Books, Package wise payable EMD details are mentioned under section 10 of the tender document.**
Eligible printers may offer their bidding **up to 5.30 PM on 11.06.2026.** Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website.
E-procurement portal address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Portal Help line: +91-9240214000 / +91-9240214001
Department Website:**https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka Text Book Society (R) Bengaluru

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675 Fax: 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/ELE/152/2025-26 Date: 03.06.2026

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 152/2025-26

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 1 tenders as per KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for service Tender bid documents under Corporation fund.
The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 2) Estimate Sanction cost:Lowest Amount **Rs. 20.00 lakhs & Highest Amount Rs. 61.00 lakhs**, 3) EMD Value: Lowest Amount Rs. 42,000 & Highest Amount Rs.1,22,000, 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **10.06.2026 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **11.06.2026 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **12.06.2026 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/
Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/186/KSMC&A/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Office of The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit,
State Highway Development Project, PWD Annexe Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in e-Mail: cposhdp2020@gmail.com

No: CPO/PIU/SHDP/Technical/AEE-7/Tender-DPR/2026-27/556 **Date: 04.06.2026**

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER / CALL-2

The Superintending Engineer-1 & 2, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru is inviting tenders for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for the improvements in State Highway and Major District Road works to be taken up in Eleven (11) PWD Divisions under SHDP, PHASE-5, Stage-2 as detailed below, as per Standard Bidding Document (KC-4), KTPP-1999 Act & Rules 2000 and Request For Proposal (RFP) on Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in two Cover System.

Sl. No.	Details of Package	Road Length	Amount Put to Tender in Rs. (Excl. GST)	EMD Amount in Rs.	Tender Period
1	Details available in KPP Portal 10 Packages	Package wise details available in KPP Portal	Rs. 20,000/- Per Km	Details available in KPP Portal	30 Days

Package wise details of works, EMD and Tender details are available in KPP Portal.

Tender Process Details: (1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal from **05/06/2026. (2)** Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled in this Office on **08/06/2026 at 11-30 Hours. (3)** Last Date & Time for Submission of Tenders is **12/06/2026 upto 16.30 Hours. (4)** Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids on **15/06/2026. (5)** Date & Time of opening of Financial Proposals/Bids on **25/06/2026. (6)** Henceforth, Corrigendums / Addendums and Modifications, if any will be published in KPP Portal only.

Registered Consultancy Firms in e-Procurement / KPP Portal are eligible to Participate in tenders. Further, any information can be obtained from O/o the Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, K R Circle, Bengaluru-01 during office hours on working days and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** KPP Portal, Helpdesk Telephone Nos. are +91-9240214000 / +91-9240214001.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer 1 & 2,
PIU-SHDP, K R Circle, Bengaluru-01
DIPR/SPAN/989/2026-27

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.: 44/2025-26/2ndCall/541 D: 02.06.2026

Tender Notice 2nd call

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to M.G.N.R.E.G.A. works of Kalasa and Sringeri Taluks in Chikkamagaluru District. Max. Approx. Amount of work is Rs. 65.00 lakhs and Min. Approx. Amount is Rs. 40.00 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KG – 2 & 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 02.06.2026 to 17.06.2026 up to 5.30 PM. Technical Bid will be opened on 19.06.2026 at 5.05 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 23.06.2026 at 11.00 AM. If this day is declared as holiday then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/26-27/43/311

KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division (PMGSY), Chikkaballapur
#441, 3 rd Floor, IDSMT Layout, APMC Back Door, Chikkaballapur. Ph: 08156-274638, e-mail: pmgsycbp@gmail.com

NO. EE/PD/CBP/ TENDER /98/2026-27 Date:03.06.2026

RE-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency, Executive Engineer, PMGSY, Chikkaballapura office invites item rate tenders through KPP portal for the following Indent works Under Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) . Details of works indent numbers is as follows. **(1) Others:KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT no CALL-2 :323,320,318,327,319,315,322,328,329 and 330 (2) Earnest Money deposit (EMD): (1)**1.5% of the Amount put to tender for Indent no: **KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT no CALL-2:320,318,327,319,315,328,329 and 330 (2)** 2% of the Amount put to tender for Indent no: **KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENTno CALL-2 :322 and 323**. **Calendar of events of tendering is as follows: (1)** Start date for online submission of Technical and Financial bid: **05.062026, 11.00 Hours (2)** Pre Bid Meeting **Date: 08.06.2026, 11.00 Hours (3)** Last date for online submission of Technical and Financial bid & **:11.06.2026, upto 16.30 Hours (4)** Opening of technical bid: **12.06.2026, 16.35 hours (5)** Opening of financial bid**: 15.06.2026 , 10.30 hours onwards or soon after completing the Technical bid evaluation of tender.** For any information, the Executive Engineer, Project Division, PMGSY, chikkaballapura may be contacted. Further tender details can be obtained from the website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-Tendering Officer, Executive Engineer, Project Division (PMGSY) Chikkaballapur.
DIPR/CHIKKBALLAPUR/RO:84/KSMCA/2026-27

Data hygiene

Census enumerators should not face difficulties in the name of re-verification

It is disturbing that some Census 2027 enumerators in States such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are facing issues for extremely unusual reasons. In these two States where the first phase of the Census – Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) – is under way, they have been advised to "revisit households and correct the data discrepancies" and "not to select options that may show the government in a poor light". Re-verification is a legitimate part of any study or survey but this must be done to reflect reality accurately, not to manage perceptions. In Rajasthan, the issue arises from a circular of the Director of Census Operations to district-level officials regarding discrepancies identified in field data. Apparently, the objective is to ensure that data are accurately recorded, using appropriate options in the questionnaire. However, in some cases, enumerators have been told to record data based on assumptions. For example, if some households do not have toilets, enumerators have been told to check whether toilets are available nearby, on the basis of which the entry can be changed from "open defecation" to "[having] access to latrine". In Uttar Pradesh, the message seems to be not to present facts as they are, raising concerns about data integrity and reliability for a crucial and sensitive exercise.

The present episode brings to the fore the efficacy of programmes such as the country's long-running campaign against open defecation. While many States have made tangible progress, it would be unrealistic to conclude that the problem has been eliminated. For administrative purposes, including funding, it is reasonable to classify cities and villages on the basis of certain parameters as Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF Plus and ODF Plus Model. But, the critical question is whether such a classification reflects reality and comes into conflict with the enumerators' work. It is the responsibility of policymakers to ensure that Census data are accurate and credible. They must also sensitise people to provide correct information, as public policies and welfare schemes are formulated on the basis of these data and ultimately benefit them. The authorities must recognise and resolve the legitimate difficulties faced by enumerators. As the significance of the Census hardly needs any reiteration, the Union government should be quite liberal in enhancing allowances for enumerators to ensure efficient and timely work. It should not only be conscious of the financial outlay involved – about ₹11,718 crore for the entire country – but also of the need to make reliable data publicly available for purposes such as targeted and inclusive policymaking. The government should send a clear message that data sanitisation must not be undertaken under the guise of re-verification.

Fire and furore

Poor compliance and weak enforcement have led to deaths in fires

Indian cities rely on an economic ecosystem in which businesses often operate beyond the approved limits while enforcement remains sporadic. A fire *per se* is not odd, but a slew of deadly fires in urban areas, from the Uphaar Cinema fire in 1997 to the Arpora nightclub fire in 2025, has involved the same vulnerabilities: overcrowding, blocked escape routes, unapproved modifications to interior spaces, poor compliance, and weak enforcement. Prior inquiries, court rulings, and promises of reform have not prevented similar safety failures from recurring. Many of the victims of the B&B fire in Delhi on June 3 were medical tourists, lodged there due to the proximity to South Delhi's hospitals. Many were also infirm and could not act quickly to escape heat or suffocation – a situation that likely prevailed in the ICU fire at a Muzaffarpur hospital on June 4, which claimed four lives, including two elderly individuals. According to the Delhi Fire Services and the Municipal Corporation, the B&B lacked a fire department clearance, violated fire safety norms, and had more than thrice as many rooms as allowed for B&Bs. These bodies are also answerable to how the facility operated in this way, especially since the Delhi High Court had directed the municipality in January to audit the city's hospitality hubs. The building had been rebuilt in 2013 and reportedly exploited land-use exemptions to bypass municipal bylaws that required wider roads for fire tenders.

The tolerance of hazardous conditions with a high fire risk persists because cost-cutting entities, whether establishments or governments, overlook the value of safety measures when there is no fire, even if the measures prevented a fire. The state must inculcate fire safety using principled inspections, incentives, and sanctions, and sustain a culture in urban centres to practise it as a matter of course. Local authorities often blame owners for 'clandestine' modifications; the Delhi police have charged the B&B's owner with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. But the implication that long-standing negligence was the distal cause must extend to the absence of enforcement. The particular charge also results inconsistently in convictions, undermining the penal system's ability to deter such incidents. The misuse of provisions for B&Bs finally points to failures that the Tourism Department should investigate; the city's decision to rescind them is not adequate as an answer. Political blame-games are a red herring: a deadly fire is a product of the incidental causes on that day and systemic factors that preserved the risk. In the same vein, the government's response must encompass these factors or they may amount, once more, to little.

A curated compilation of articles, on the Editorial and Opinion pages, to mark World Environment Day on June 5

Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question

Balakrishna Pisupati

Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) office in India

There is one figure that should command the attention of every policymaker, banker, and financial expert in India. India will require ₹162.5 trillion – roughly $2.5 trillion – by 2030 to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions. Over the longer term, the cost of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 is estimated at $10.1 trillion, nearly three times India's current GDP.

This is not a counsel of despair. India has more tools to bridge this gap than it has deployed so far. But doing so requires a clear financing strategy and the institutional resolve to build mechanisms that can mobilise capital at scale.

The financing gap

Decarbonising just four sectors – steel, cement, power, and road transport, which together account for more than half of India's carbon emissions – will require $467 billion in additional capital expenditure between 2022 and 2030, roughly $54 billion annually, or 1.3% of GDP. These are sectors where the private sector will not lead without strong regulatory incentives, because the economics of green steel and green cement simply do not yet work without policy support.

By 2030, developing economies are estimated to need $5 trillion to $6 trillion for climate action. The developed world promised $100 billion annually at Paris – and missed it. The Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) commits $300 billion by 2035 – which India rightly considers insufficient. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s own Report on Currency and Finance estimates that India needs an additional annual investment of at least 2.5% of GDP for green financing until 2030.

The international community will not fill this gap on India's behalf. The honest answer is that India must mobilise most of it from within.

India is not starting from zero. By the end of 2024, India had issued $55.9 billion in green, social, sustainability, and sustainability-linked debt – a 186% rise since 2021. Green debt leads, making up 83% of the total, with most funds directed to clean energy and transport. Sovereign green bonds worth ₹477 billion have helped set benchmarks and boost investor confidence. This is genuinely impressive.

The instruments exist. The challenge is deploying them at scale. India already has green bonds, sovereign green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, blended finance structures, transition finance instruments and infrastructure investment trusts. What is missing is the connective tissue: a taxonomy, a guarantee architecture, a liquidity mechanism, and the regulatory incentives that make green finance cheaper than brown finance.

The most significant shift in India's climate-finance landscape in 2025 did not occur at a climate conference but in Mint Street. In 2025, the RBI's Climate Finance and Management of Climate Change Risks Directions for Commercial Banks and Small Finance Banks established a comprehensive framework requiring banks to integrate climate risks into their lending and risk-management practices. Importantly, eligible green activities can qualify as priority sector lending (PSL), while investments in sovereign green bonds are also recognised under the framework.

India's bottleneck is not funding, but the institutional architecture needed to move it where it is needed

This is a bigger deal than it looks. PSL requirements are one of the most powerful levers that the RBI holds over bank behaviour. Currently, for every ₹10,000 crore in loans, banks must ensure ₹4,000 crore of PSL.

The RBI can and must go further. It has proposed accepting sovereign green bonds as collateral with more flexibility in margin requirements and adjusting reserve requirements to support credit flows to green sectors. The next frontier is differentiated capital requirements based on climate risk – essentially, making brown lending more capital-intensive and green lending less so.

The RBI's Climate Risk Information System on climate-related financial risks for commercial banks, and its inclusion of sustainable finance in its regulatory sandbox, are steps in the right direction.

The next critical step is a comprehensive climate stress-testing framework for Indian banks – one that assesses the flood risk of a loan portfolio in Bihar as rigorously as it evaluates credit risk.

The taxonomy unlocks everything else

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 that India would develop a climate-finance taxonomy. This is the foundation of the entire ecosystem. Without a clear legal definition of what counts as "green", green bonds cannot be credibly verified, PSL classifications remain questionable, international investors cannot make compliance claims, and regulators cannot effectively curb greenwashing.

The Ministry of Finance's Climate Finance Taxonomy and the Ministry of Steel's Green Steel Taxonomy will facilitate standardised sustainable investments and boost investor confidence.

The international climate finance system has one instrument that India has chronically underused: blended finance – the strategic use of public or concessional funds to de-risk private investment. Financial instruments such as green bonds, climate funds, and blended finance models are important in mobilising capital for sustainability initiatives, and unlocking investment at scale will help drive long-term resilience in India's most climate-sensitive sectors.

Here is the arithmetic that makes blended finance so compelling. A first loss guarantee of $100 million from a public source can unlock $500 million to $1 billion in private co-investment in solar, offshore wind, green hydrogen, or climate-resilient agriculture, because it absorbs the risk that private capital finds unacceptable. It needs a capitalisation injection and an expanded mandate to get there.

Where the finance gap is most acute

One dimension of India's climate finance challenge that receives almost no attention is its federally disaggregated nature. Climate adaptation – the kind of finance that protects coastal villages in Odisha, drought-proofing in Vidarbha, or spring rejuvenation in the Himalayas – is delivered at the State level. But States have neither the borrowing capacity nor the institutional infrastructure to access international climate finance. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have shown that ambitious State-level climate programming is possible. The financing architecture needs to catch up with the ambition.

There are four things that India must do now. First, finalise and enact the Climate Finance Taxonomy without further delay. It is the single most leveraged action available.

Second, the RBI must move from enabling green finance to mandating it – through differentiated capital requirements, mandatory climate stress testing for banks, and expanded PSL targets that include climate adaptation alongside mitigation.

Third, establish a State Climate Finance Facility, capitalised for example, by the Union, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and international sources, to give States and municipalities genuine access to green debt markets.

Fourth, scale sovereign green bond issuances rapidly and embed them in the SLR framework to deepen the domestic market and attract foreign capital.

India's climate-finance challenge is large and urgent, but not insurmountable. The instruments exist, the regulatory framework is taking shape, and capital is available. What is missing is not money, but the institutional capacity to deploy it at scale. Fixing that is the work of the Budget cycles. The country that solves this challenge fastest will shape the future of climate finance in the developing world.

The views expressed are personal

A national environmental survey whose time came

Saumya Gupta

Doctoral researcher, Anthropology Department, University of Amsterdam

Thirunavukarasu S.

Junior Research fellow, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Madras

Anthropologist Anna Tsing writes, "Anthropocene, <is> the epoch in which human disturbance outranks other geological forces.....although some interpreters see the name as implying the triumph of humans, the opposite seems more accurate: without planning or intention,humans have made a mess of our planet." It is in this precise predicament that India finds itself: environmental damage has slipped beyond intention and control, belonging to no one entirely and to everyone at once.

An unfolding crisis

A survey by the Yale School of the Environment of 10,751 Indians (December 2024-February 2025) found that most respondents had experienced at least one extreme event, including heat waves (71%), agricultural pests and diseases (60%), power outages (59%), water pollution (53%), droughts and water shortages (52%), and air pollution (52%). Based on Indian meteorological department and State of India's Environment findings, nearly half of the 37% of 870 river-monitoring stations recorded alarming levels of toxic heavy metals. Air pollution in 2022 reduced average life expectancy by about three years, while some parts of the country experienced extreme weather for nearly 88% of the year. The Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India estimates that 29.7% of the country's land is degraded. Yet, despite this mounting environmental crisis, India still lacks a comprehensive understanding of the state of its environment.

In India, the environment sits on the back bench – starved of funds, with only 0.07% of the annual budget allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), understaffed, and intellectually neglected. Its custodians often work in silos with overlapping jurisdictions. The result is ignorance masquerading as knowledge. The MoEFCC's annual reports outline forest-restoration initiatives such as the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries '+' additional forest-related activities that protect the climate), yet say little about the scale of State-wise deforestation, its impact on biodiversity and livelihoods, or the country's preparedness for future environmental challenges. Beyond these omissions, the reports often obscure the nuances behind impressive plantation figures, sidestep scrutiny of fund utilisation and environmental compliance, and overlook findings from global assessments.

A credible environmental survey is essential for informed policymaking

The case for EnvSI

Much of this information is already measured by governments, think tanks, educational institutions and private actors, but it remains fragmented. What is missing is not data, but a system that brings it together. The remedy is to have an Annual Environmental Survey of India (EnvSI): a unified platform that aggregates evidence, conducts independent audits, issues actionable assessments and grades performance. EnvSI must provide an unsparing account of environmental reality – however uncomfortable. The objective is not merely to document what has been lost, but to identify what can still be protected.

Drafting an EnvSI would require a clear statutory mandate, functional autonomy and protected tenure for an expert-led body. It should integrate data from government agencies, independent researchers, the private sector and field-based evidence. Its methodology must combine quantitative indicators with livelihood assessments, using cross-verified datasets and rigorous analysis. Some may question the cost.

The answer is simple: the cost of not doing it is far greater, and doing it would bring some reason to the redundancy of surveying efforts. An EnvSI could deliver four key benefits. First, it would help prevent further environmental degradation, temper climate-driven disasters, and build resilient responses through coordinated action and better resource use. Second, it would support the timely achievement of climate targets, enhance credibility and unlock climate finance. Third, it would better align economic development with conservation, while protecting tribal rights, traditional livelihoods and the interests of displaced communities. Finally, it would strengthen the commons by recognising and safeguarding the interdependence between ecosystems, species and human societies.

Finally, the template for an EnvSI already exists. The Economic Survey of India offers the Environment Ministry its clearest model: an integrated report prepared by experts under the Chief Economic Adviser, independent enough to present inconvenient truths. It draws on multiple sources, rigorously scrutinises evidence, rejects comforting narratives, and alerts policymakers to emerging challenges and necessary reforms. India constantly faces difficult trade-offs between development and conservation.

Keeping nature in sight

Home to one-sixth of humanity on just 4% of the earth's land area, India must pursue growth while meeting climate commitments. In such circumstances, environmental concerns are often pushed to the margins. An independent and audacious EnvSI can help balance growth, sustainability, livelihoods and justice. Without India's full commitment, global climate goals will remain elusive. More importantly, an EnvSI can make visible the environmental changes that have become normalised, helping build the awareness needed to protect what remains.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fire safety still neglected

The tragic fire in Delhi has once again exposed the chronic inadequacies in our approach to public safety in India. Particularly disturbing is the fact that such disasters are no longer isolated incidents but recurring reminders of systemic negligence and administrative complacency. In the aftermath of every major fire accident, assurances are offered, inquiries are ordered, and recommendations are drafted. Yet, little changes on the ground. Safety norms continue to be flouted with impunity, inspections remain perfunctory, and accountability is conspicuously absent. The recurrence of such tragedies raises a troubling question: how many more lives must be lost before there is meaningful action?

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Discrepancies in Census

Discrepancies in Census data must be rectified. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India must correct the irregularities to ensure the integrity of the process. We need robust and dedicated field functionaries to ensure accuracy and precision.

Manas Agarwal,
Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Students deserve better

When years of effort and investment are undone by negligence, public trust in national examinations is eroded. Education cannot thrive on ad hoc systems. The government must ensure transparency and secure processes to prevent such lapses. Students deserve fairness, not uncertainty. Restoring confidence in testing mechanisms is not merely an administrative task — it is a moral responsibility to millions who see education as the pathway to progress.

K. Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The power of mangroves over seawalls

India's coastline relies on seawalls and embankments, while Ecosystem-based Adaptation through mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs continues to reduce climate risks

Jui Gusani

Postgraduate from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, and was formerly an intern at the Sustainable Futures Collaborative

Sony R. K.

Associate Fellow at Sustainable Futures Collaborative

When Cyclone Dana made landfall near Bhitarkanika on Odisha's coast, the region's mangroves quietly provided a form of protection that billions of rupees in coastal infrastructure often struggle to deliver: reducing climate impacts while strengthening ecosystems and livelihoods. Across India's coastline, mangroves, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs are already helping communities adapt to rising climate risks. Yet seawalls, groynes, and embankments continue to dominate adaptation spending, even though they can be costly to maintain and sometimes transfer risks elsewhere. Despite their proven benefits, these ecosystem-based interventions are rarely recognised as Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), limiting their visibility in adaptation planning and finance.

For millions living along India's coastline, climate change is already a lived reality. From rising sea levels across the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal to saline intrusion, intensifying cyclones and storm surges, climate change is multiplying threats along India's 11,000-kilometre coastline. These interacting hazards not only reshape the ecologically fragile coastal landscape but also directly upend the lives, livelihoods and homes of around 250 million people. In this context, EbA offers a promising strategy for reducing climate risk while sustaining the ecosystems that support fisheries, agriculture, and tourism.

India's coastal adaptation landscape reveals a stark preference for engineered measures such as seawalls, groynes, embankments, and tetrapods. This preference is also reflected in public spending. While coastal States spent ₹2,641 crore on hard protection measures over the last decade, the National Coastal Mission's budget fell from ₹195 crore in 2022-23 to ₹50 crore in 2024-25. Although grey measures remain necessary and effective in many high-density urban contexts, they are expensive to maintain and can displace underlying risks rather than resolve them. In Kerala, for example, hard armouring along eroding coastlines has protected specific sites while accelerating erosion and damage in adjacent areas.

Untapped adaptation asset

EbA uses biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to climate change.

India's coastline hosts a range of ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs, and wetlands, that act as natural buffers against climate impacts. Research identifies India as a global 'hotspot' for coastal EbA, with mangroves protecting more people per hectare than almost any other country. Yet this ecological shield remains an underutilised asset in India's climate resilience strategy.

Green refuge: Across India's coastline, mangroves, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs are already helping communities adapt to rising climate risks. GETTY IMAGES

The benefits of EbA are already visible on the ground. In the Sundarbans, for instance, over 18,000 women restored 4,600 hectares of mangroves, blunting the devastation of cyclones Amphan and Yaas. The restoration also strengthened livelihoods through activities such as honey collection and crab farming, highlighting EbA's social and economic co-benefits.

EbA remains peripheral to India's adaptation agenda. Fragmented mandates, weak monitoring, and a preference for visible infrastructure often leave ecosystem-based interventions buried within broader sectoral programmes rather than recognised as adaptation in their own right.

The most overlooked barrier, however, is the ambiguity surrounding the term EbA. The policy space is crowded with overlapping concepts such as Nature-based Solutions (NbS), Ecosystem-based Coastal Adaptation (EbCA), Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR), and other ecosystem-centred approaches, creating uncertainty about what qualifies as EbA. Additionally, many ecosystem-based interventions are implemented through broader development, conservation, or restoration programmes, with their adaptation benefits rarely assessed or recorded separately. As a result, many coastal EbA interventions remain concealed within sectoral initiatives or generic policy categories, making India's coastal EbA portfolio appear much weaker than it truly is.

Why classification matters

The Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes programme illustrates the disconnect. It aims at restoring 540 square kilometres of mangroves across nine States. Although designed to protect coastal communities from the impacts of climate change, it is primarily framed as a restoration programme.

Without clear recognition and classification, many EbA interventions remain fragmented across different labels and schemes. Clear classification helps identify, monitor, and evaluate adaptation outcomes while ensuring that the socio-economic benefits of EbA are properly reflected in planning and finance. This matters even more as the Global Goal on Adaptation has renewed attention to how adaptation outcomes are measured and reported. Without clear ways of identifying and tracking EbA interventions, India risks undercounting some of its most effective climate responses.

While this may appear to be a question of terminology, it carries real policy consequences. For better adaptation action, India must move from dispersed projects to a coherent strategy that embeds EbA within coastal planning and adaptation policy. The challenge is no longer whether ecosystem-based adaptation works but whether our policy frameworks are prepared to recognise, measure, and scale it. By operationalising EbA as a core climate and development strategy, India can reposition its natural capital as one of its most resilient and equitable lines of defence.

A framework for climate and development capital

Climate and development are often treated as separate challenges, even when the same investment can deliver both climate and development outcomes

Aravindan Srinivasan

Executive Director, Climate Action at AVPN

Asia is sitting on significant pools of capital committed to climate action, health, and poverty reduction. What we have not yet built is a framework that recognises these as part of the same pool. Globally, half of the $4 trillion SDG financing gap lies in the energy transition alone. That means that the single largest driver of development underfunding is also a climate problem. In India, estimates suggest that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require additional investments of around 6% of GDP annually, and the sectors driving this gap – energy, infrastructure, and health – are also the sectors where climate investment is most urgently needed.

Multiple returns

The challenge is not that climate and development require separate pools of capital. Both need substantially more investment. The challenge is that we continue to evaluate them separately, even when the same investment can deliver both climate and development outcomes.

Every year, fossil fuel combustion accounts for 0.95 million premature deaths in India. Extreme heat cost the country 247 billion working hours in 2024 alone. A clean energy investment that displaces coal generation produces a carbon return, a health return, and a productivity return simultaneously. Yet, we currently count only the first. That means the investment case visible to funders is a fraction of what it actually is, and the capital being mobilised reflects that limited view.

India's renewable sector could generate 3.4 million jobs by 2030. Each of these jobs represents not only a livelihood outcome but also a health outcome and, in districts facing structural unemployment, a poverty-reduction outcome. So, while the funds exist in principle, what is needed is an investment framework that channels capital across the full stack of returns.

Consider the Kolhapur foundry cluster, one of the most concentrated agglomerations of small manufacturing units in India, responsible for roughly 5% of the country's cast-iron exports and supporting around 27,700 jobs. These firms burn enormous quantities of grid electricity, face rising carbon-compliance costs as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism comes into force, and are simultaneously absorbing the shock of American tariffs that have stalled certain export lines.

Powering progress: A clean energy investment can improve health outcomes, strengthen livelihoods, and build economic resilience. GETTY IMAGES

The energy cost problem, the trade competitiveness problem, and the climate problem are, again, the same problem. Helping these firms shift to open-access renewable power does not merely reduce their emissions; it restores their price competitiveness in markets that will increasingly price carbon at the border and protects the employment base of a region with few other industrial anchors. An investor making a bet on renewable energy infrastructure for this cluster is also, whether or not they account for it, making a bet on industrial employment and export diversification.

This same logic extends to agriculture. In Maharashtra's cotton belt, a biochar programme targeting 10 lakh farmers projects an income uplift of ₹85,000 per farmer per year through soil amendment, yield improvement, reduced fertilizer dependence, and lower pest pressure. The same programme removes 1.45 million tonnes of CO_2 annually. The carbon credit and the farmer's income gain are two readings of the same physical intervention: organic matter returned to degraded soil. Investors can hold a position in one or both. Currently, most investors capture neither, because markets have not yet developed instruments that make it easy to hold both simultaneously.

Unlocking capital

The technical assistance that philanthropy can offer here is not marginal. It is the difference between a project pipeline that is analytically ready and one that sits on a shelf. Aggregating demand across rural water boards, urban local bodies, smallholder cooperatives, and industrial clusters is work that commercial capital is unlikely to fund at the origination stage. But once that aggregation is completed, load shapes are mapped, regulatory risks are documented, and payment security mechanisms are structured, the same commercial capital will compete to invest.

The opportunity is not simply to mobilise more capital, though additional financing remains essential to meet Asia's climate and development needs. It is also to help capital deployers recognise the full spectrum of returns that their investments can generate. A clean energy investment not only reduces emissions; it can improve health outcomes, strengthen livelihoods, enhance productivity, and build economic resilience. When these outcomes remain invisible in investment decision-making, capital is allocated against an incomplete investment thesis.

By building frameworks that measure and value both financial and social returns, we can direct more capital towards solutions that deliver the greatest overall impact.

When El Niño becomes an economic crisis

As climate risk increasingly becomes economic risk, stronger adaptation through heat-resilient cities, worker protection and better water management is essential

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India often meets the arrival of extreme heat and erratic rain with a familiar shrug: the weather is harsh, the monsoon is uncertain, and life must go on. But that response misses the larger point. If El Niño returns as forecast, India will not face merely a weather disturbance; it will face a development crisis in which heat stress, water scarcity, crop losses, and food inflation expose the fragility of the informal economy.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) ENSO Diagnostic Discussion Report (2026) states that El Niño is likely to emerge soon, with an 82% chance during May-July 2026 and a 96% chance of continuing through the winter of 2026-27. India's own weather office, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its Long Range Forecast for the Southwest Monsoon Season (2026), has projected monsoon rainfall at 92% of the long-period average, placing it in the "below normal" category.

That matters because, in India, climate shocks do not remain confined to the atmosphere. They move quickly into the labour market, the mandi, the household kitchen, and the city street. A weak monsoon is not simply a concern for meteorologists; it is a warning that rural incomes may weaken, food prices may rise, and working hours may shrink. For a country where a large share of employment remains informal and climate-exposed, El Niño is best understood as an economic transmission mechanism.

The heat economy

The first channel is heat. Long and punishing summers reduce the productivity of workers who cannot escape outdoor exposure – construction labourers, delivery riders, street vendors, and agricultural workers. Climate change affects them the most because they have the least protection and economic security. A hotter India is not merely a warmer India; it is an India where earning a livelihood becomes increasingly difficult. Heat stress lowers productivity, reduces working hours, and deepens income insecurity for millions who depend on daily wages.

Counting clouds: When rainfall becomes uncertain, sowing decisions become riskier, irrigation costs increase, and groundwater extraction intensifies. FILE PHOTO

The second channel is agriculture. A 2026 *Reuters* report on India's monsoon outlook noted that the southwest monsoon supplies nearly 70% of the rainfall needed to water crops and recharge reservoirs and aquifers. When rainfall becomes uncertain, sowing decisions become riskier, irrigation costs increase, and groundwater extraction intensifies. For small and marginal farmers already struggling with volatile prices and rising input costs, climatic uncertainty magnifies economic instability. In that sense, El Niño is not merely a climatic event; it is a shock to the production base of the rural economy.

The price shock

The third channel is inflation. Food prices are often where climate stress becomes visible to every household, not just farming communities. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Consumer Price Index Press Release (2026), food inflation rose to 4.2% in April 2026, raising concerns that a weaker monsoon could intensify price pressures further. If rainfall weakens and crop stress deepens, price pressures can quickly spread across vegetables, pulses, and other essentials. For policymakers, this creates a difficult balancing act: the same climate shock can simultaneously weaken growth and intensify inflationary pressures.

Urban India is increasingly becoming a heat trap due to concretisation and shrinking green cover. But the burden is unequal. While wealthier households can adapt through better housing and cooling, poorer households face overcrowding, water scarcity and prolonged heat exposure. Climate change is thus widening urban inequalities.

El Niño is not merely a weather event but a development challenge. India needs stronger climate adaptation measures through heat-resilient cities, worker protection and better water management. Climate risk is now economic risk, and its burden falls most heavily on the poor.

From Page One

Five dead, many injured in Bihar hospital blaze

"We've recorded statements from the family members of patients," Mr. Sen added.

Relatives of those admitted in the hospital later protested against hospital authorities saying they could not locate their family members and creating pandemonium within the hospital premises.

"After getting complaints from the family members of those who died or were injured in the incident, action will be taken against those found guilty of negligence," said Senior Superintendent of Police Kanteya Kumar Mishra.

Nicobar port's lack of 'strategic goals' flagged

The Hindu has viewed the PPPAC meeting records and reached out to the Finance Ministry for comment, but has not received one till press time.

The proposal, sponsored by the MoPSW with the Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) in Chennai as the implementing agency, sought PPPAC clearance to build the port in two phases and, crucially, approval for ₹12,230 crore as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to make the commercially marginal project bankable. VGF is a one-time grant given to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of commercial (financial) viability.

The PPPAC cleared the proposal "unanimously" though it refused the VGF, recommending instead that the MoPSW use its internal budget for the same. Earlier this week, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh wrote to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav that "...the narrative on the Great Nicobar Island Project has suddenly shifted... faced with incontrovertible evidence of its hugely adverse ecological impacts, the Union Government is now emphasizing its supposed strategic rationale." He added that "...the Great Nicobar Island Project as presently conceived is overwhelmingly a commercial enterprise".

"Until the environment clearance (accorded in November 2022) there was no real reference by the Government of it being a strategic project... and even then it was only the airport (with civilian and military use)," researcher and author Pankaj Sekhsaria, who has extensively documented the environmental threat posed by the project, told *The Hindu*.

The ICTP is a significant component of the much bigger Great Nicobar Island Development Project, with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO) as the proponent of the overall project and holder of environmental clearance.

The 2021 documents that conceived the Great Nicobar programme and the January 2023 Expression of Interest for the port described it as a means of capturing transhipment cargo currently routed through Colombo, Singapore, and Port Klang, with the government estimating annual foreign exchange savings of about $200 million, cumulatively reaching around $1 billion by 2047.

In the last year or so, the project has volubly been cast in a maritime security lens. The project has hence been cast as a counterweight to Chinese naval expansion in the Indian Ocean. This is an argument given fresh impetus by the U.S.-Iran confrontation over the Strait of Hormuz.

Former Chief of Staff of the Integrated Andaman and Nicobar Command, Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, has called infrastructure built there without a maritime doctrine "a platform without a theory", while former Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash argued that the existing military presence can be reinforced without the ecological damage.

Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy

PM holds discussions with Venezuela's Acting President on also expanding cooperation in critical minerals, technology, agriculture and health; importance of Global South solidarity emphasised

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India's partnership with Venezuela is of "immense importance" for the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, welcoming Delcy Rodriguez, the Acting President of Venezuela, even as the South American country called "energy security a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Venezuelan Acting President Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Venezuela is still dealing with the aftermath of the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro by the U.S. military in January. Officials said Ms. Rodriguez, whose country is dealing with 'political transition' and 'fundamental economic transformation', described India as a "trusted partner". The leader, who arrived here on Wednesday, is on a five-day visit.

"We had extensive discussions on expanding our cooperation in energy, critical minerals, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties. As a valued partner in Latin America, our close cooperation with Venezuela holds immense importance for the Global South. We will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our nations," said Mr. Modi after the meeting.

A press release from the Venezuelan government said the meeting was aimed at "strengthening the role of both nations in the geopolitical context of the Global South and on boosting mutually beneficial macroeconomic agreements". It described India as "one of the main destinations for the Nation's energy exports, making energy security a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship".

Ms. Rodriguez, who was accompanied by Ministers of Economy, Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology, and Transport and Communications, conducted a "comprehensive review of the mutual cooperation map", the press note said, adding that the bilateral relation is in an "excellent state".

Officials revealed that Ms. Rodriguez discussed the political situation in Venezuela in a "frank conversation" with Mr. Modi during official-level talks and over the working lunch that followed. "We all know there was a transition in Venezuela, and we are working with a government that is friendly and that wants partnership with India. We want to reciprocate that," said Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East) of the External Affairs Ministry, while briefing the media.

India, U.K. launch observatory for critical minerals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seeking to expand cooperation and technology-sharing in the realm of critical minerals, India and the United Kingdom on Thursday formally launched the Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO).

The platform – to be jointly operated by India's Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN), Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad and U.K.'s University of Cambridge – will institute a data-driven platform to monitor and analyse global critical mineral supply chains.

In a social media post, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy wrote, "This is a major step towards strengthening critical mineral supply chains, supporting clean energy transitions, and building resilient global supply chains through the India-U.K. partnership."

Union Minister for Coal Kishan Reddy with U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.

India and the U.K. were well-positioned to construct a mutually beneficial partnership on the back of their newly firmed-up comprehensive trade deal and the defence industrial road map, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Thursday. He made the remarks during a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.

Ms. Cooper stated the observatory could also serve "as a foundation for broader cooperation across the critical minerals sector and related strategic industries."

(With PTI inputs)

Kuki organisation in Manipur opposes SIR of electoral rolls

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

An apex Kuki organisation has opposed the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in conflict-scarred Manipur, alleging that it has excluded thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the community.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) said it expected the government to resolve the issue of some 59,000 Kuki-Zo IDPs, and help them return home to participate in the SIR exercise.

"Proceeding with such a critical electoral and administrative exercise without ensuring the participation of a large and vulnerable section of the population undermines the very principles of democratic representation. The exclusion, whether direct or indirect, of these IDPs from the SIR process renders the exercise incomplete and unacceptable in its present form," the organisation said in a statement on Thursday.

The government and the district authorities should take immediate and concrete steps to establish accessible and inclusive mechanisms to let all affected IDPs be duly enrolled and participate in the revision process, the KIM said.

"Any continuation of the SIR without such provisions would not only be unjust but would also call into question the legitimacy and credibility of the entire exercise," the organisation said.

The KIM said leaving any displaced person out would raise questions on the fairness and inclusivity of the SIR exercise, which was launched in Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim a few days ago.

Rajnath announces revised financial powers for armed forces to boost autonomy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday revised the financial powers of the defence forces via the framework for the Delegation of Financial Powers for Defence Services, including for medical and works projects. The move aims to enhance operational efficiency, accelerate procurement, and strengthen self-reliance in the defence sector.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting regarding the approval of enhanced financial powers for armed forces. PTI

According to the Ministry of Defence, financial powers have been enhanced by up to 100% and, in certain cases, more than doubled. The move is expected to empower field commanders with greater decision-making authority, enabling faster conclusion of contracts and timely execution of projects.

The Ministry stated that financial powers related to indigenisation and research and development within the military ecosystem have been doubled to further the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reduce dependence on foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). The revised framework is expected to facilitate procurement worth over ₹1.25 lakh crore through the revenue route, in line with the current year's budgetary allocations.

Special financial powers delegated to Army, Navy, and Air Force commanders have also been significantly enhanced, including a 100% increase in the overall ceiling to meet urgent operational requirements. The revised provisions additionally promote joint procurement by the lead service.

Manipur policeman killed in knife attack

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Manipur policeman died in a knife attack during an anti-drug operation in the State's Thoubal district on Wednesday evening.

Officials said the attacker was arrested on Thursday morning. He was detained along with another person soon after the incident.

"During the operation, one of the detainees, Md. Naobi alias Mahil (25) attacked Havildar Kh. Suresh Singh of the 4th India Reserve Battalion, with a knife, inflicting fatal injuries before fleeing the spot along with the other detainee," the State Police said in a statement on Thursday.

Singh was rushed to the district hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. He was a member of the State's police commando unit in Thoubal.

Monsoon sets in over Kerala 3 days late amid El Nino concerns

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on Thursday, the India Meteorological Department announced. The monsoon has arrived three days later than the normal onset date of June 1 and five days behind the date forecast by the department.

On May 15, the IMD forecast that the monsoon would arrive over Kerala on May 26, with a model error of plus or minus four days. The onset on June 4 overshot even the upper bound of that window (May 30) by five days.

Having reached the coast, the monsoon is expected to gather pace. The IMD said conditions were "favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, entire Goa, some parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, some more parts of Karnataka, remaining parts of Tamil Nadu" and much of the Bay of Bengal "during next two to three days."

Motorists ride in the rain at a locality decked up with FIFA World Cup posters in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The monsoon's arrival comes under the shadow of a strengthening El Nino. The World Meteorological Organisation now puts the chance of El Nino conditions developing at about 80% for July and August, the core of the monsoon and the months that matter most for kharif sowing. The IMD has already pegged the season at a below-normal 90% of the long-period average.

A poor monsoon would tighten reservoir discharge, slow groundwater recharge, and strain a farm sector in which more than half the cropped area is rain-fed.

It is the first time since 2015 that the department has missed its onset call beyond the error margin; its operational forecasts had been accurate every year from 2005 to 2025 save that one lapse.

Meteorologists caution against reading too much into the late start.

Some rebel MLAs still want Mamata as 'supreme leader'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A day after 58 MLAs of the Trinamool Congress signed a letter nominating expelled party legislator Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the West Bengal Assembly, defying party chairperson Mamata Banerjee, some of the rebel MLAs on Thursday were seen warming to the former Chief Minister.

Mamata Banerjee will remain the undisputed leader of the Trinamool Congress, several MLAs have said. ANI

About 20 of the rebel MLAs met in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and a few of them said that Ms. Banerjee remains their "supreme leader".

Speaking to the media after being appointed LoP, Mr. Ritabrata had said on Wednesday that he wants Ms. Banerjee as the "chief adviser" of the Trinamool Congress Legislature party.

"Mamata Banerjee is the supreme leader not adviser," Trinamool MLA from Panchla, Gulshan Mullick, said.

Sangita Roy Basunia, the Trinamool MLA from Sitai, spoke in a similar vein and said that Ms. Banerjee remains the undisputed leader of the party.

The rebel Trinamool camp has chosen a relatively young LoP in Mr. Ritabrata instead of a ten-time MLA, Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, 82.

A letter nominating Mr. Chattopadhyay as the LoP was submitted to the Speaker of West Bengal Assembly on May 20, but MLAs Mr. Ritabrata and Sandipan Saha alleged that their signatures were forged, following which they were expelled from the party.

An FIR was registered on the basis of the complaint of the expelled MLAs, and the investigation reached the doorstep of Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, who had signed the letter. "An idea of Trinamool Congress without Mamata Banerjee is not a feasible idea. The rebellion is more directed towards Abhishek Banerjee than Mamata Banerjee," a senior leader said.

Delhi blaze: building owner sent to police custody for four days

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after a major fire left 21 people dead at the Flourish Stay bed-and-breakfast in Delhi's Malviya Nagar, the building's owner Lavkesh Bajaj was remanded to four days of police custody by a district court on Thursday, on the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, among others.

Lavkesh Bajaj

Mr. Bajaj's manager Rakesh and his accountant Jay Mishra – in whose name the B&B licence was issued – are still absconding, the Delhi Police said.

APPEAL

Master Mohammad Mustaqeem, Christian Medical College Hospital No.AP02779, 17 months has been Diagnosed to have Beta Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life-threatening Blood Disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately Rs.16,00,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Mohammad Mustaqeem, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Rahul 'selling panic', promoting baseless conspiracy theories: BJP

Hitting out at Modi, Congress leader had said an unprecedented 'economic tsunami' was set to hit India; Amit Malviya terms Rahul's remarks 'classic fear-mongering', says the country remained the world's fastest-growing major economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday accused Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of "selling panic" and promoting baseless conspiracy theories about Indian institutions and the economy, in response to his remarks on Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not remain in office a year from now.

Claiming that the Modi government was facing an "institutional revolt", at the Congress's National Adivasi Professional Conclave, Mr. Gandhi had said an unprecedented "economic tsunami" was set to hit India as the BJP government had removed protections against international shocks, and its control over institutions had collapsed.

"Now, people see that there will be tremendous pressure from the *janta* (public), and they realise that if they continue in the same direction, it will be a risk. What do you think? If the public knows that the electoral system is rigged and becomes angry over economic pressure, poverty and pain, don't you think the Election Commissioner would be scared? So, now the system is shaking," he had said.

> If the public knows that the electoral system is rigged and becomes angry over economic pressure, poverty and pain, don't you think the Election Commissioner would be scared? So, now the system is shaking
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

> Every few months, he unveils a new conspiracy theory. At some point, one has to ask: is Rahul interested in facts, or is he simply manufacturing fear and chaos
>
> **AMIT MALVIYA**
> BJP IT Cell head

BJP IT Cell head Amit Malviya retorted sharply through a post on social media platform X.

"Every few months, he [Mr. Gandhi] unveils a new conspiracy theory. First, democracy was over. Then institutions were captured. Then election rigging. Now we are told that an Emergency is coming and an economic tsunami is around the corner. At some point, one has to ask: is Rahul Gandhi interested in facts, or is he simply manufacturing fear and chaos because he cannot explain his party's repeated electoral failures?," he said.

"According to Rahul Gandhi, the Chief Election Commissioner, intelligence chiefs, judges, institutions, and practically everyone in the system have been secretly working for him for the last three years, constantly feeding him information. Yet, despite having this extraordinary network, his party keeps losing elections and shrinking politically. Not a single allegation of election rigging has been proven in court. Not one," said Mr. Malviya.

Stating that Mr. Gandhi's claim about impending "economic tsunami" was nothing but a "classic fear-mongering", he said: "If India's shock absorbers had truly been removed, why is the economy continuing to show resilience despite elevated crude prices, conflict in West Asia, supply chain disruptions, global financial tightening and persistent geopolitical uncertainty?"

'Stronger reserves'

He said although India was facing an external shock, it was not defenceless as the shock absorbers had been built over the last decade. The country was facing global headwinds with "stronger reserves, lower inflation, better infrastructure spending, stronger domestic demand, record FDI inflows, substantial food buffers and targeted support for MSMEs [Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises] and industry," said Mr. Malviya.

Despite facing multiple black swan events, India had remained the world's fastest-growing major economy, moved from the "Fragile Five" to the top five economies, Mr. Malviya said.

House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme

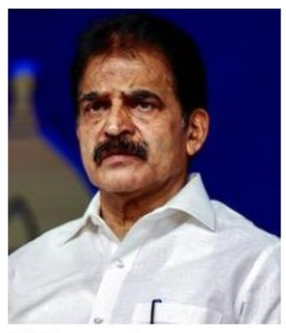
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, pulled up the government over its flagship skilling programme, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Citing the audit report tabled by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the panel said the scheme disproportionately focused on skilling for jobs with low demand, such as retail.

The PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), launched in July 2015 with the objective of enabling a large number of youths to take up industry-relevant skill training.

Citing the findings of the report, panel members noted during the deliberations that there was a mismatch between training and demand. They said the skilling efforts were heavily focused on sectors with low demand, such as apparel, electronics, and retail, which together accounted for 40% of trainees. In contrast, sectors such as food processing, which require more trained personnel, accounted for only 0.48% of trainees. Similarly, only 3.8% of trainees were skilled for the tourism sector.



K.C. Venugopal

Lack of planning

Panel members from both the Opposition and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party questioned the lack of planning, despite the programme being in operation since 2015. According to sources, many members said the government did not seem to have learnt from the scheme's shortcomings. It was also pointed out that only 41% of trainees were placed. The programme has also been hit by repeated instances of fraudulent appointment letters.

The CAG report cited multiple examples. In one instance, Neelima Moving Pictures was awarded skill certifications to 33,493 participants for 21 job roles across eight States between January and November 2020. However, the company was found to be non-existent. The audit report noted that no responsibility had been fixed for such fraudulent claims.

Defending the scheme and its implementation, the government blamed State governments, which, it said, were the implementing agencies.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Venugopal said unemployment remained the biggest threat facing the country.

Cong. slams govt. over CBSE's three-language policy for Classes 9, 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday accused the Narendra Modi government of sacrificing educational rationale for political agendas. Taking to X, Mr. Ramesh raised questions over the CBSE's directive mandating the implementation of the three-language formula for Classes 9 and 10 starting from July.

Mr. Ramesh detailed a stark contradiction in CBSE's decision-making over the last six months. He stated that during its semi-annual meeting in December 2025, the CBSE governing body explicitly ratified a recommendation by its curriculum committee to maintain existing study arrangements – specifically regarding language provisions – until the NCERT released dedicated, graded textbooks.

This initial resolution bore the signatures of the then-CBSE chairman Rahul Singh and former secretary Himanshu Gupta, both of whom have since been transferred, over the On-Screen Marking row.

"So, what changed in these six months?" Mr. Ramesh asked. Despite NCERT failing to release any third-language textbooks for secondary classes, CBSE issued a circular in May abruptly mandating the extra language, he said.

BJP names RS candidates for five States; two Union Ministers left out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

RS polls in 10 States, including Arunachal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, M.P., Manipur, will be held on June 18

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday announced its candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls in five States, with two Union Ministers Ravneet Singh Bittu and George Kurian not figuring in the list. Both Ministers' terms in the Upper House end on June 21. While Mr. Bittu represents Rajasthan in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Kurian is currently a member from Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Bittu is likely to focus on Punjab which goes to the polls early next year.

The party accommodated Debashish Samantaray, who recently joined the BJP after quitting his seat in the Rajya Sabha as a Biju Janata Dal MP.

Younger leaders

According to the list released by the party, Rajubhai Shukla, Mukeshbhai Rathwa, Mansingh Parmar, and Jitendra Meghjibhai Kanzariya have been fielded as candidates from Gujarat. The party has opted not to renominate three of its outgoing members, instead leaning on younger leaders.

Party national general secretary Tarun Chugh and Rajneesh Agrawal have been fielded from Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Chug, who hails from Punjab, has been an active face in the BJP organisation over the past few years and has earlier held positions in the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha.

Alka Gurjar and Satish Poonia will contest from Rajasthan. Mr. Poonia, 62, served as the BJP State president from September 2019 to March 2023 and is currently the party's in charge for Haryana. Ms. Gurjar, 65, currently a BJP national general secretary, won the Rajasthan Assembly election in 2013.

The party has fielded A. Sharda Devi as its candidate from Manipur and Tai Tagak from Arunachal Pradesh. Ms. Devi, 59, a former teacher, is a long-time party member and served as the national vice-president from 2014 to 2016. She is currently the BJP State president and the first woman to hold the post since June 2021. Mr. Tagak, 54, joined the RSS in 1989 and played a key role in the BJP forming the government in Arunachal Pradesh in 2016.

Rajya Sabha polls in 10 States, including Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Manipur, will be held on June 18. A bypoll to the Upper House from Odisha will also be conducted on the same day.

Kharge and Praveen Chakravarty among Cong. RS nominees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is among the seven Rajya Sabha candidates across five States that the party announced on Thursday for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections on June 18.

Mr. Kharge is one of the three candidates from Karnataka. The party's media and publicity wing head Pawan Khera and Mansoor Ali Khan are the other two. The party has fielded All India Professionals' Congress chief Praveen Chakravarty from Tamil Nadu. Mr. Chakravarty was one of the early advocates of a tie-up with the film star-turned-politician C. Joseph Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam.

In Madhya Pradesh, where the party can win one seat, it chose Meenakshi Natarajan, who had earlier represented the Mandsaur Lok Sabha constituency.

In Jharkhand, where the party can win one seat with the help of its ally Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, the Congress has fielded Pranav Jha, who is an All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary attached to the Congress President's office.

In Rajasthan, Neeraj Dangi, a sitting Rajya Sabha member, has been given another term.

Centre in 'panic mode' on economy, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday alleged that the Union government was in "panic mode" over the state of the economy, referring to reports that it was considering the removal of the 12.5% tax on long term capital gains to arrest the withdrawal of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from the Indian markets.

The party also raised questions over Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC) investment in jewellery and gold refining company Rajesh Exports, which is facing regulatory action by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

"The Modi government is clearly in panic mode and is under siege from within its ecosystem on the current economic situation," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

The Congress leader contended that temporary policy measures could not substitute for addressing structural issues.

DMK to boycott INDIA meet over Cong. 'betrayal'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on Thursday announced it would boycott the upcoming meeting of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc parties, scheduled to be held in New Delhi on June 8.

In a strongly-worded statement, the DMK noted that the decision was taken to honour the sentiments of its cadres, who remain deeply hurt by the "betrayal" committed by the Congress after the Tamil Nadu Assembly election.

The Congress, which won five seats as part of the DMK-led alliance, had unilaterally snapped ties after the polls and joined the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam-led government.

The DMK statement explained how the party had consistently been at the forefront of nation-wide issues. It said the DMK had "courageously opposed" initiatives and policies that threaten democracy, secularism, and State rights – including the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), delimitation, the "hastily introduced" special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, 'One Nation, One Election', the Waqf Amendment Bill, and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act amendments.

"Since the inception of the INDIA bloc, the DMK has functioned as its central force. DMK president M.K. Stalin has consistently been the primary voice raising critical issues concerning the people of this country," it read.

The party attributed its decision to stay away from the high-level meeting entirely to the Congress.

The DMK, however, maintained that it remains committed to broader Opposition solidarity on national issues. "We will always raise our voice alongside other member parties on matters that adversely affect the welfare of the nation," the party said.

Minorities enjoy full freedom in India: Rijiju

Ishita Mishra
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said minorities in India enjoy full freedom and are able to practise their faith and way of life without hindrance. He said efforts were being made from outside the country to project a false narrative of persecution.

"No individual had been compelled to leave the country because of religious identity... Criticise government policies if you wish, but do not spread falsehoods," he said while attacking the Opposition. Speaking at the Ministry's 'Reforms Utsav' to mark 12 years of the Narendra Modi government, Mr. Rijiju highlighted technology-driven initiatives but said that details of nearly 45% of Waqf properties are yet to be uploaded on the UMEED portal and that issues on scholarship remain unresolved.

Kiren Rijiju

UMEED is a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties. It was launched on June 6, 2025, with an initial six-month deadline to register around nine lakh such properties spread across India.

'Labour-intensive process'

"There are so many shortcomings in different State Waqf boards... the documents of properties are faulty... in some places, thousands of acres are recorded on paper, but the land on ground tells a different story. We are continuously organising workshops and sessions to help Mutawallis register the Waqf properties. It is a labour-intensive process and will take some time," he said.

The Minister admitted that scholarship delivery, one of the Ministry's largest welfare initiatives, remained affected by investigations into alleged fraud in several States. Mr. Rijiju said he hoped that ongoing CBI inquiries would conclude soon and the programme could resume.

Mr. Rijiju said the Ministry's annual budget has increased from ₹1,949 crore in 2014 to ₹4,115 crore at present, a 111% jump. But government outreach efforts received limited attention and negative developments attracted disproportionate coverage, he said.

The Ministry featured demos for an AI-enabled helpline for hajj pilgrims.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for **Spec.No.PMM12-e-43/2026**:Lot-I: 33kV PTR LV CTs of ratio 2000-1200-800/1-1-1-1A, Lot-II: 33kV Feeder CTs of ratio 400/1-1A. **Date & Time of availability of above tender: 05.06.2026 at 5:00 PM**, **Website:www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** Contact No.CE/Transmission: **0866-2429230.**
R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/76/26-27 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION**

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Rayapudi, Thullur (M), Amaravati Capital City, Guntur (Dt) – 522237 (A.P.)
Rc.NoMAU61-OPCS0CNTE(APPT)/5/2026-HR, Dt. 03-06-2026.
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No.02/2026
Notification is hereby issued for recruitment of certain posts on contract basis in APCRDA, Amaravati. Online application is available in the APCRDA website in careers tab and can be submitted from **dt. 05.06.2026 to dt.18.06.2026.** For further details, please visit **https://crda.ap.gov.in**
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Amaravati.

HOSUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
KfW assisted SMIF Phase-III
Tender Notice - Form of contract: Item rate (Two cover system)
Bids are invited in Two cover system for the following below Works in Online Hosur City Municipal Corporation.

S. No.	Name of Work	Value put to tender (Rs. in Cr)	Period of completion
1.	Providing Storm Water Drains Integrated with Water bodies in Hosur City Municipal Corporation – Package 1 to 7		
	Package-1	14.91	18 Months
	Package-2	41.49	18 Months
	Package-3	49.19	24 Months
	Package-4	22.69	18 Months
	Package-5	75.16	24 Months
	Package-6	37.07	18 Months
	Package-7	24.17	18 Months

2. The bid documents will be available from **04.06.2026.** The bid documents can be downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost.
3. Bid documents can be downloaded upto **3.00 PM** on **08.07.2026**. Online submission of tender is only accepted.
4. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be **1%** of the estimate value
5. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from the office of the Hosur City Municipal Corporation on all working days during office hours and Email address **commr.hosur@gmail.com**
6. **Important dates**

1	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	**23.06.2026 at 11.00 AM**
2	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	**08.07.2026 at 03.00 PM**
3	Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission	**08.07.2026 at 03.00 PM**
4	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	**08.07.2026 at 03.30 PM**

7. In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
8. Other details can be seen in the bid documents and E-mail **commr.hosur@gmail.com**

DIPR/1996/TENDER/2026 **Commissioner, Hosur City Municipal Corporation**

INBRIEF

SC dismisses as 'infructuous' WFI's appeal against Phogat

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed an appeal filed by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) against a Delhi High Court order allowing senior wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games 2026. The court, however, clarified that the dismissal of the appeal should not be construed as an endorsement of the adverse observations made by the High Court against the federation. A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar observed that the special leave petition had become infructuous since the selection trials had already been held, in which Ms. Phogat participated but lost.

ED searches nine locations in Mizoram in illegal *supari* case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted searches at nine locations in the border town of Champhai along the Mizoram-Myanmar frontier in connection with smuggling of illegal Burmese *supari* (dry areca nuts) into India, involving over ₹970 crore. The ED probe – based on a case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation on a Gauhati High Court directive dated July 16, 2024, – revealed that Burmese nationals allegedly brought dry areca nuts across the Tiau river into India without Customs clearance at Zokhawthar and Champhai. The consignments were then handed over to local facilitators at the border.

CBI books man for allegedly posing as PMO official

The CBI has registered a case against a person for allegedly posing as an Under Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The accused has been identified as P. Elangovan. The agency initiated a preliminary enquiry against him on January 8, 2026, following a complaint from the PMO with respect to a wedding invitation card in which he had been shown as an Under Secretary working there. The agency found that in 2023, the accused introduced himself as a PMO official to Joint Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments over phone and requested for a "VIP darshan" to be arranged for his relatives at a temple in Tamil Nadu.

Gujarat Police detain 501 Bangladesh nationals

The Gujarat Police have detained 501 Bangladeshi nationals from various parts of the State over the last two days as part of "Operation Delta Hunt", a State-wide drive against illegal immigration, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Thursday. The operation, which began late on Tuesday night, has been carried out across Gujarat following extensive planning and intelligence gathering. Authorities are simultaneously scrutinising the credentials and backgrounds of more than 6,200 others as part of the ongoing exercise. According to the Minister, a majority of those detained were engaged in manual labour.

Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling

They underline that AI systems used in court processes must 'function solely in an assistive capacity' and remain 'strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority'; comments and suggestions invited from the public till June 20

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Prohibiting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to determine judicial outcomes, the Supreme Court AI committee has proposed draft regulations that bar AI-assisted sentencing without mandatory human oversight, prevent AI systems from profiling parties or witnesses, and disallow the use of "opaque" or "unexplainable" AI systems in any court process.

The proposed regulations come amid concerns expressed by the top court in recent months over the growing reliance on AI by courts in rendering judgments. In March, a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha chided a trial court for relying on non-existent judgments generated with the help of AI, observing that it was not merely "an error in decision-making" but amounted to judicial "misconduct".

The preliminary draft of the 'Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026', made public on Wednesday, underlines that AI systems used in court processes must "function solely in an assistive capacity" and remain "strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority".

The draft regulations permit the use of AI for administrative functions such as case listing and scheduling. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The committee, chaired by Supreme Court judge Justice P.S. Narasimha and comprising Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V., Anoop Chitkara and Suraj Govindaraj, has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders as well as members of the public on the draft regulations before they are finalised.

The deadline for submitting responses is June 20. Under the draft regulations, the processing of personal data through AI systems shall be governed by the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. It also underlines that AI systems must not "perpetuate, amplify, or introduce bias" on grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, gender, disability, language, economic status, or any other ground prohibited under the Constitution.

'Human-in-the-loop'

"Applications involving higher levels of risk to personal liberty, any lawful right of a person, or the integrity of judicial outcomes shall be subject to correspondingly heightened safeguards, including mandatory human-in-the-loop requirements and independent oversight," the draft states.

It further cautions that AI-assisted judicial systems should not "widen digital divides" and must remain accessible to all stakeholders, including those from rural, economically disadvantaged, or linguistically diverse communities.

While the draft regulations permit the use of AI for administrative functions such as case management, preparation of cause lists, scheduling of hearings, transcription of court proceedings and translation of judgments, they make it clear that AI systems cannot be used for "risk scoring" in court processes. This includes assessing flight risk, predicting recidivism, evaluating bail eligibility, or determining the credibility of parties or witnesses.

It also bars authorities from using AI systems for the surveillance or continuous monitoring of judicial officers, advocates, litigants and other stakeholders, "except as may be specifically authorised by applicable law for the time being in force".

'Apex body'

To supervise the adoption of AI in the judiciary and steer standard-setting and policy development, the draft regulations propose the creation of a full-time "apex body" at the Supreme Court.

The apex body, it recommends, would comprise two Supreme Court judges nominated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), one of whom shall serve as the ex-officio chairperson; two High Court Chief Justices and two High Court judges nominated by the CJI; one member from an institution of national importance or any institution of repute, as nominated by the CJI; an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; a finance expert and a cybersecurity expert nominated by the CJI; among others.

Rahul slams Modi govt. for death of NEET aspirant

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday attacked the Narendra Modi government over a "corrupt and broken" education system after reports that a NEET aspirant from Madhya Pradesh had allegedly taken her own life.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi referred to Akanksha Chaturvedi, a student from Mauganj district who was preparing for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) in Nagpur.

According to media reports, she died by suicide after reportedly being overcome by depression following the alleged paper leak and cancellation of the May 3 exams.

"Akanksha's death was not a suicide, it is the tragic outcome of a corrupt and broken system under Prime Minister Modi," he alleged.

The NEET (UG) 2026 examination, conducted on May 3, was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of paper leak. The re-examination is scheduled for June 21.

(Free counselling is available at the helpline TeleManas at 14416).

Parliamentary panel grills Centre on OMCs' failure to absorb oil shock

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, headed by BJP leader Bhartruhari Mahtab, on Thursday questioned the government on why, despite making hefty profits, the Oil Marketing Companies have been unable to absorb the oil shock due to the U.S.-Iran stand-off.

The meeting on Thursday, which was attended by officials from the Department of Economic Affairs and the Chief Economic Adviser of the government, was the first in the series of meetings on the 'General Economic Situation in the Country'.

Both Opposition and ruling party members raised concerns about the impact of the US-Iran stand-off on the Indian economy.

The Oil Marketing Companies had registered a profit increase of nearly 130% in the last financial year. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

According to sources, senior Congress leader Manish Tewari, among others, questioned the government on the recent fuel price hike. Ruling party MPs P.P. Chaudhary, Sanjay Seth, and Dinesh Sharma were among those who wanted to know the inflationary impact of the current crisis over the next quarter.

One member pointed out that the OMCs, during the past financial year (FY 2025-26), had registered a profit increase of nearly 130%, and even in the last quarter their revenue was 40% higher than in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Opposition members demanded to know why the OMCs were unable to absorb the recent shock. Officials, as per sources, cited international statistics to reiterate the government's position that the impact on fuel prices in India has been limited compared to global trends. Unsatisfied with the response, the panel has asked the government to come up with a detailed answer.

Questions were also raised on the heavy dependence on imported raw materials for fertilizer production by domestic manufacturers and its impact on the economy. The government, as per sources, has assured that there were enough stock to see the *Rabi* season through, and that efforts are on to procure more for the *Kharif* season.

The dip in Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Portfolio Investment was also raised, though several members, according to sources, were not satisfied with the government's reply. Even ruling party members expressed concern over retail inflation, especially the rising cost of basic food items.

Former LS Secretary General Subhash Kashyap passes away

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Lok Sabha Secretary General and constitutional expert Subhash C. Kashyap passed away on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 97.

Mr. Kashyap was part of the high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to prepare a legal framework on simultaneous elections. Author of over 100 books, he served as the Secretary General of Lok Sabha from 1983 to 1990.

He served Parliament for over 37 years from the time of Jawaharlal Nehru's first Lok Sabha to the 9th Lok Sabha.

Born in 1929 in a family of freedom fighters in Bijnor in the then United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), he actively took part in the struggle for Independence as a teenager.

Subhash C. Kashyap

He received his higher education and professional training at Allahabad, New Delhi, Washington DC, London and Geneva.

He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan.

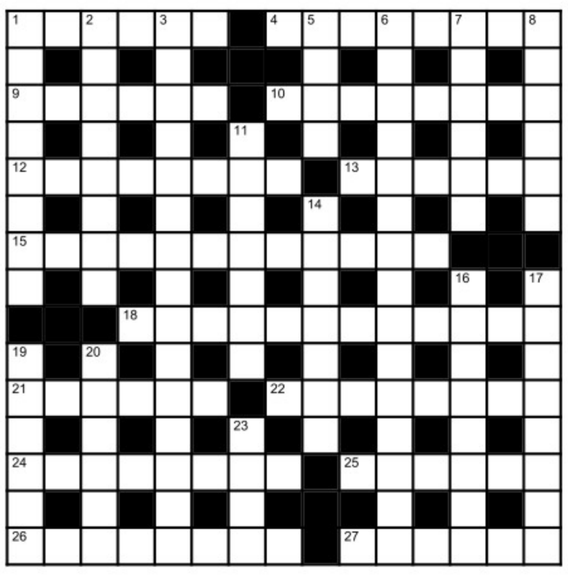
President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the demise of Mr. Kashyap is extremely sad and offered condolences to his family. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla condoled his demise and said it is a profound loss to Indian parliamentary democracy, constitutional discourse and public life.

TH CROSSWORD + 14812

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Well, takes seconds to create trouble (6)
4 Yearns to get help for a medical complaint (8)
9 Song about ultimate love and beginning of love in the air (6)
10 Chasm created before fleece (8)
12 VIPs were all over the place for advance shows (8)
13 Outlook of a group that keeps quiet (6)
15 Perhaps organise team for a threesome (6,1,5)
18 Nothing under the closet - showing insincere affection (8,4)
21 Turns out taking drug causes disturbance (6)
22 Nickname for Charlie -"Go back only with women" (8)
24 Spray is not working - discard (8)
25 One sits quietly before God in a holy place (6)
26 Perhaps Robert's getting a tan (8)
27 French city where Poles take a bet (6)

Down

1 Spooner's bio-fuel, prominence is for a refrigerator (4,4)
2 Theatre people and their desire in their progenies (8)
3 No.1 quiz that prompts the answer wanted (7,8)
5 Some aspirants are from this country (4)
6 Abandon Asia - he is happy with national language (6,9)
7 Essays she set to rewrite (6)
8 Arrange seats, one comes in for some rest (6)
11 Trust the fancy brew, say (5,2)
14 Tense on ground? That's betrayal (7)
16 To millions and millions conservative rise is rubbish (8)
17 These are perhaps writers' assumed title (3,5)
19 State wordplay for an injection (6)
20 Compelled to include the final prayer at the shrine (6)
23 Tough to proceed (4)

SUDOKU

	7			5		1		8
			9	2		5		4
					7	3		
					9			
9	4	7				8	1	6
			6					
		8	2					
5		1		7	4			
3		4		1			2	

No.SS6902 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

■	C	A	S	T	L	E	I	N	T	H	E	A	I	R
S	■	C	■	I	■	L	■	A	■	O	■	C	■	A
P	E	A	R	L	■	A	D	V	A	L	O	R	E	M
R	■	R	■	D	■	S	■	E	■	L	■	I	■	B
A	L	I	M	E	N	T	■	S	C	A	N	D	A	L
I	■	C	■	■	■	O	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	E
N	A	I	R	A	■	M	E	A	N	D	E	R	E	D
■	■	D	■	L	■	E	■	L	■	E	■	A	■	■
S	M	E	L	L	A	R	A	T	■	R	E	T	C	H
H	■	■	■	O	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	I	■	U
E	N	D	O	W	E	D	■	M	A	S	C	O	T	S
L	■	W	■	A	■	R	E	■	I	■	N	■	■	S
L	I	E	I	N	W	A	I	T	■	■	N	Y	A	L
A	■	L	■	C	■	F	■	E	■	A	■	L	■	R
C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	S	I	T	E	M	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	2	1	3	7	9	5	6
5	7	6	9	8	4	1	2	3
1	3	9	6	5	2	7	8	4
3	9	5	8	7	6	4	1	2
7	6	8	4	2	1	5	3	9
2	1	4	3	9	5	6	7	8
4	8	3	5	1	9	2	6	7
6	2	1	7	4	8	3	9	5
9	5	7	2	6	3	8	4	1

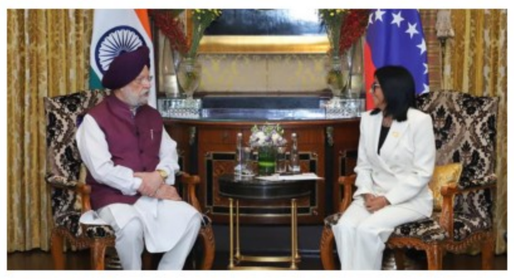
FAITH

Duties cited in Tirukkural

Whenever we face difficult moments in life, our religion extends a helping hand and encourages us not to fear, said Lanka Jeyaraj in a discourse. Death is undoubtedly a major loss in our worldly sense; however, our spiritual philosophy teaches us that it is an illusion. Our existence is made of both body and life force, soul. Though the physical form is left behind, the life force does not cease to exist. Based on our actions, karma and transitions, the journey continues until the soul achieves spiritual maturity. For further understanding, five acts of God are creation, preservation, destruction, concealment and grace. Concealment means God hides the ultimate truth until our karma is resolved and then reveals it through his grace.

Tirukkural, a great work by Tiruvalluvar, places Tamils on a global pedestal. For any civilisation, having a text like Tirukkural alone is enough. It is a timeless work that openly explains the deeper truth and principles behind life and creation. Tirukkural is divided into four sections: virtue, wealth, love and liberation or salvation. Tiruvalluvar emphasises that God cannot be fully attained through grammar or knowledge, but can be realised through renunciation. He believes that if virtue is deeply rooted in a society, no one can destroy it. Tirukkural explains that *Aram* (virtue) is divided into *Illaram* (householder's life) and *Thuravaram* (aesthetic life). He describes 11 duties that a person should fulfil. These include protecting *Brahmacharis*, maintaining aesthetics and renunciation, caring for those in need, honouring the departed ancestors, worshipping the divine, showing hospitality to guests, caring for relatives and society, and, finally, protecting oneself.

INBRIEF



India and Venezuela seek to boost ties in energy sector

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and heads of energy sector PSUs on Thursday met visiting Venezuelan Acting President Delcy Rodríguez to strengthen bilateral ties. "Venezuela is already among the largest crude oil suppliers to India in April and May 2026, which is a reflection of the future potential. Our technical team will visit Venezuela soon to further explore this potential," Mr. Puri posted on X after the meeting.

Fire at Tata Steel's U.K. plant; personnel evacuated safely

A fire broke out on Wednesday at Tata Steel's UK plant, which is undergoing transition to a low-carbon steel-making process, a company statement said on Thursday. "All personnel were accounted for and evacuated from the area safely," Tata Steel UK said. The company said that Mid and West Wales Fire Service attended the Port Talbot site Wednesday night at around 8 p.m. (U.K. time) to deal with a fire at one of the site's processing lines. PTI

Kuku files confidential papers for up to ₹3,500-crore IPO

Kuku Technologies Ltd., which operates vernacular audio platform Kuku FM and short-video streaming app Kuku TV, has filed confidential draft papers with SEBI for a ₹3,000 crore IPO. The firm is planning to raise between ₹2,500 and ₹3,500 crore and is targeting a valuation of up to ₹15,000 crore through the proposed public issue, people familiar with the development said on Thursday. PTI

India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds

Reuters
MUMBAI

India plans to scrap capital gains tax on foreign portfolio investments in government securities, which could help boost such inflows, a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The South Asian nation is looking to attract foreign capital to counteract pressure on its rupee currency, which has weakened more than 5% since the start of the year, squeezed by higher oil prices and foreign portfolio outflows in equities. The finance ministry did not immediately respond to a *Reuters* email seeking comment.

India's benchmark bond yield eased one basis point to 7.01% in opening trade, although it was not immediately clear when the plan would take effect.

Any tax easing should help flows at the margin, said Madhavi Arora, chief economist at Emkay Global Financial Services.

"It won't be a magic bullet in the current context," she cautioned, but added it could prove positive in the medium term.

Foreign investors are subject to a long-term capital gains tax of 12.5% on listed shares and bonds held longer than 12 months.

A withholding tax of 20% they pay on interest earned in government bonds may also be removed, the source said.

As talks stutter, Iran grip on Strait of Hormuz still tight

Recent weeks have seen more non-Iran-linked ships transit with Iranian permission; Lloyd's List data show ships with an 'Iran nexus' accounted for nearly 97% of crossings in mid-March

Kalyanaraman M.
CHENNAI

Even as the U.S.-Iran talks lurch and ships are attacked by both sides, there has been a slight uptick in the regularity of stranded ships leaving the Strait of Hormuz over the past three weeks, as per Lloyd's List data.

Though the U.S. blockade seems to have impacted the transit of ships with direct Iran links, Iran has maintained a tight grip over the strait.

In the recent three weeks, there has been an increase in the number of non-Iran linked ships transiting with the permission of Iran, while ships have slipped across with support from U.S. forces too. Lloyd's List data shows that ships with "Iran nexus" accounted for nearly 97% of crossings in mid-March.

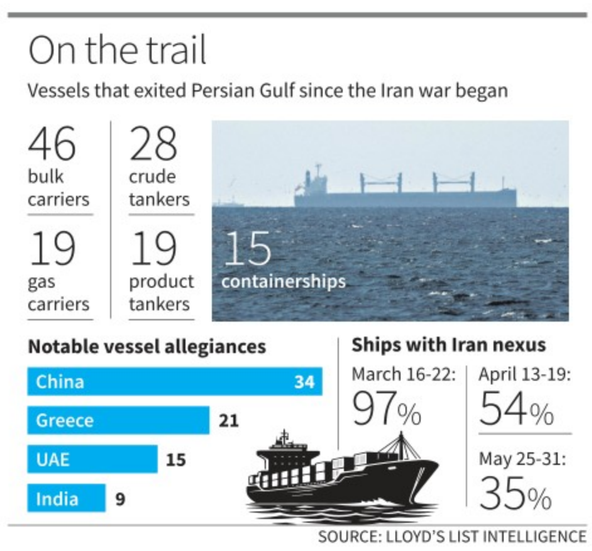
After this peak, this figure has steadily declined to 35% in the week of May 25-31.

Nearly 40 non-Iranian-linked ships have exited in the past three weeks, bringing the number of "escapees" to 142 since March, says Richard Meade, editor-in-chief of Lloyd's List.

In the past, transits came in sporadic bursts such as when the ceasefire was signed.

Between April 13 and 19, for example, 23 stranded ships affiliated to 12 countries transited as owners rushed to move during a brief ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran.

"The past three weeks, however, have brought a more consistent pattern of exits," Mr. Meade told *The Hindu*.



'Little business sense'

A source in the shipping industry says ship owners want the vessels to exit the Persian Gulf as being anchored there for more than three months makes little business sense.

This may be leading them to take the Iranian route as the U.S. has said that it will not attack ships with no links to Iran while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the source said.

Some ships are transiting via the southern route close to the coast of Oman in coordination with- and under an element of protection of the U.S. military, says Jakob Larsen, chief safety and security officer at Bimco, a global body representing ship owners.

"This is quite risky since it is done with lights and radars turned off, and the Iranians are doing what they can to attack the ships," he adds.

Capt. Ritesh Kumar, who has more than 20 years of seafaring experience, says the Strait of Hormuz is quite wide compared to say Malacca Strait and ships had enough space to not hug either the Oman or the Iran coast and for that reason the Oman coast has been less well-surveyed.

Though the Persian Gulf Strait Authority set up by Iran to control the strait and permit transit along its coast has been sanctioned by the U.S., more than 300 non-Iranian vessels have applied for transit permits, as per the authority. Lloyd's List analysis estimates that some 28% of the ships above 10,000 dwt that applied were bound for China, 19% for India, 23% for other parts of Asia, 12% for Europe, 10% for Africa and so on.

The PGSA has said it will prioritise permits to ships with affiliations to nations friendly to it and will disallow U.S. and Israel-linked ships.

"As a general observation, the threat level for ships in the Persian Gulf is currently unchanged. However, the situation is volatile, and the threat may increase with short notice," Mr. Larsen told *The Hindu*.

Despite the uptick in exits, overall traffic through the Strait of Hormuz in May fell to its lowest level since the crisis began, likely a result of the U.S. actions against Iran-associated ships.

U.S. Centcom, while refusing to give details to *The Hindu*, however, pointed to media releases that say that it has "disabled" (attacked) six and redirected more than 120 ships involved in Iranian trade since April 13.

On June 2, a missile launched from a U.S. aircraft caused a hole on tanker MT Lexie near Kharg island. This provoked an immediate attack on MSC Sariska by Iran.

Rajesh Exports shares hit 5% lower circuit post SEBI order

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shares of gems and jewellery firm Rajesh Exports Ltd. (REL) tumbled 5% to hit the lower circuit limit on Thursday, a day after capital markets regulator SEBI barred its promoter and CEO Rajesh Mehta from dealing in the company's securities, alleging large-scale misrepresentation of financial statements and diversion of funds.

The stock dropped 4.99% to hit the lower circuit limit at ₹104.65 on the BSE. At the NSE, the stock fell by 4.99% to hit the lower circuit limit of ₹103.92.

The company's market valuation declined by ₹162.38 crore to ₹3,089.90 crore. The SEBI also directed the company to make true and fair disclosures of financial statements, related party transactions and other disclosures under the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations.

In a 109-page interim order on Wednesday, the markets regulator said its investigation has revealed misrepresentation in financial statements as well as instances of routing and layering of funds through personal accounts and related entities without adequate disclosures or supporting documentation.

REL's auditors, during the deposition, promised to provide audit working papers, but eventually failed to do so.

TVS SCS, ALA JV targets ₹2,000 crore revenue by '31

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd (TVS SCS), one of India's largest integrated supply chain firms, announced a joint venture (JV) with ALA Group, an Italian aerospace and defence supply-chain integrator, to tap opportunities in India's fast-growing aerospace and defence sectors.

TVS SCS will hold a 51% stake and ALA the balance in the JV which is expected to emerge as a significant growth driver for TVS SCS with cumulative revenue likely to cross ₹2,000 crore by 2031, TVS SCS said.

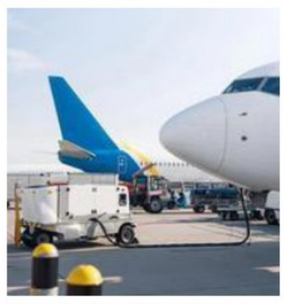
TVS SCS and ALA will continue to evaluate opportunities to support aerospace and defence supply-chain requirements across global markets.

Domestic airlines to pay more for ATF to tap stabilisation fund

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The effective selling price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for India's airlines would be ₹115/litre should they opt for the price stabilisation fund announced by the Government, Rohit Raj, Director, Union Ministry of Civil Aviation told reporters Thursday.

This would be frozen for a period of three years, the stipulated contract period, or until the differential financial support is recovered. After accounting for taxation (viz, VAT and Central Excise) and airport-related levies, the effective price comes to 115/litre for India's airlines - both domestic and international - though the benchmark price is ₹86.32/litre.


The effective selling price of ATF would be ₹115/litre.

The benchmark price of ATF for international operations is ₹104.49. Further, it is not subject to VAT and Central Excise duty, only airport-related charges.

"We are fixing the price at FOB level where there is no incidence of VAT and Central Excise. Then you will have to apply them to come to the price under the scheme," he stated.

Maruti Suzuki unveils 'India's first' flex-fuel car

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. unveiled 'India's first' flex-fuel car giving flexibility to clients to operate on any blend of ethanol and petrol from E20 to E100.

Maruti said it was introducing the technology in Wagon R which long pioneered alternative fuel vehicles in India, including CNG and LPG. In addition to a significant reduction in oil imports, flex-fuel vehicles can help boost farmers' income, Maruti said.

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, said India imported a large quantity of crude every year. Biofuels such as ethanol were an important pathway towards reducing this dependence.

'India was much more corrupt, less able to react 20 years ago': Thrun

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
MADRID

Twenty years ago, India was much more corrupt and less able to react as a global marketplace and it's changing right now, Google X co-founder Sebastian Thrun told *The Hindu*. However, he also added India was "not anywhere near" either the U.S. or China in terms of Artificial Intelligence capabilities.

"India is going through an incredibly great transformation right now," Mr. Thrun said on the sidelines of the South Summit 2026, co-organised by IE University in Madrid.

Sebastian Thrun

A conjunction of factors pose challenges for large countries like India, instead of any single factor.

"It's the education of people, the availability of capital, the ability of the government to empower businesses," Mr. Thrun explained. "And, I see India to be on the correct path right now. I've seen a massive improvement."

"But what I also see is that India is not anywhere near the U.S. or China at this point in terms of AI. "I'm optimistic for India but a number of things have to come together such as education, law, anti-corruption governments, and finance."

AI's impact on jobs

On the impact of AI on common lives, he said it was "amazing to see" many highly specialised areas of work now being done as well or better by AI.

"You'll find repetition and precision is done by machines even better than by people," he explained.

"And that will shift the sweet spot of human productivity from highly specialised to much broader and more general tasks which I consider to be a good thing as more general you work, the more you will be able to innovate and experience new things."

(The reporter is in Madrid at the invitation of IE University)

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS)
Request for Proposal
RFP No: APFPS/WFI/2026/002 **Date: 03.06.2026**
APFPS invites proposals from experienced and reputed stall designers and fabricators for design, fabrication, installation, and dismantling of exhibition pavilion at **First Regional World Food India South 2026,** scheduled to be held at **AU Engineering College, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 09th -10th July 2026** through e-Procurement portal **https://apeprocurement.gov.in** last date for submission of bids is 18.06.2026. For more details visit https://apfps.ap.gov.in Ph. 9912014007
Sd/- Dr. Sekhar Babu Geddam, I.F.S
Chief Executive Officer
DIPR 5138PP/CL, Dt: 04-06-2026

Government of Rajasthan
National Health Mission, Rajasthan
Department of Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur
Tel. No. 0141-2225736, E-Mail ID: ce-mh-raj@gov.in
No:- 1052 **Date:- 27.05.26**
Short term E-NIT No-12/2026-27 on EPC MODE
Online tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced contractors registered in Public Works Department/State Government/Authorized organizations of Central Government/ Central Public Works Department/Department of Posts and Telecommunications/ Railway etc. in appropriate category for Building Construction works on EPC Mode in Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, who are equivalent to the contractors of appropriate category of Rajasthan Government.

Total number of Works	**01**
Total NIT cost(Rs. in lakhs)	**3360.00**
Date of online download & upload	**29 May 2026 to 08 June 2026 Evening 6:00 PM**
Date of technical Bid opening	**09 June 2026 11:00 AM**

Details related to the tender can be seen on DIPR website www.dipronline.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website http://rajswasthya.nic.in.
UBN:-

S. No.	UBN Number
1	NRH2627WLOB00290

Chief Engineer
Medical and Health
Rajasthan, Jaipur
DIPR/C/9696/2026

I I I T Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by the Government of Odisha)
ADMISSION
Applications are invited for admission to B.Tech. / M.Tech. / Ph.D. For more details visit our website : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in**
B.TECH.
- **Computer Science & Engineering**
- **Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering**
- **Electrical & Electronics Engineering**
- **Information Technology**

Admission shall be strictly restricted to JEE (Main) 2026 Rank holders. IIIT Bhubaneswar reserves 50% seats for Odisha category candidates and the counselling shall be done by the Institute. The admission for the rest of the seats shall be done through JoSAA/ CSAB 2026 Counselling.
M.TECH.
- **Computer Science & Engineering**
- **VLSI Design and Signal Processing**

Admission to M.Tech Programme is being conducted through CCMT 2026 counselling. Gate qualified candidates are eligible for scholarship from **AICTE.**
Ph.D. (AUTUMN SESSION 2026)
The last date for submission of online applications has been extended to **11th June 2026.**
DIRECTOR
AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-कोटा
क्रमांक: 542 दिनांक: 25.05.2026
निविदा सूचना संख्या - 04/2026-27
NIB Code: PWD2627A0769
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **बारां जिले में बजट घोषणा 2024-25 के अंतर्गत ROB पुल का निर्माण कार्य दस साल की मरम्मत के लिए ई.पी.सी. मोड पर 1 कार्य** उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
यू.बी.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है:- UBN No. PWD2627WLOB03338
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा
DIPR/C/9412/26

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:
Tender No. T26P630001: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220/66kV GIS Substation at Bharthal, including complete civil works & automation, along with LILO of 220kV D/C Bamnauli-DIAL Overhead Transmission Line at Bharthal, on a Turnkey Basis.
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites:-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_292592_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0038-040626
Last date for bid submission:- **20.07.2026 at 01:30 P.M.**
All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS
PUDUCHERRY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE (E-TENDER)
RFP No. M-13/1237/2025 Puducherry, Dated: 05.06.2026
An RFP / e-tenders are invited by the Director of Survey and Land Records, Puducherry, from eligible registered companies, agencies and institutions for selection of an Implementing Agency for the preparation of GIS-ready cadastral base maps and the development of a Web-GIS platform for land records management in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The RFP (tender) details, terms and conditions, time schedule can be downloaded from the website **https://pudutenders.gov.in/** from 06-06-2026 11 A.M., onwards for reference. Last date of online submission is on or before 03.00 pm of 29-06-2026 through the e-Tender Portal of the Government of Puducherry – **https://pudutenders.gov.in/**
C. SENDIL KUMAR
DIRECTOR OF SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS
PUDUCHERRY
No. 051/DIP/AD(PRESS)/ADVT/2026-2027

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:
Tender No. T26P750006: Construction of revetment for transmission towers of 220 kv SOW-Mandola Ckt I, II, III & IV., Construction of Support Trench for 220 KV underground Cable Dwarka to PPK, CKT No.- I & II near IGL filling station and Public Toilet, Sector-02, Dwarka and Exterior and Interior finishing works of buildings at 220 KV Substation Masjid Moth.
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites:-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_292493_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0031-020626
Last date for bid submission:- **02.07.2026, 13:00 Hrs.**
All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

BAMAKO

Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas

AFP

Mali has banned the use of motorcycles with engines of 125 cc or above outside of major cities and urban locales as the country battles a jihadist insurgency, according to a government order. Motorcycles are the preferred means of transport for jihadist groups in Mali, which has been plunged into a security crisis. AFP

LONDON

Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies

ISTOCKPHOTO

Chinese spies are posing as job recruiters to trick staff in western governments into disclosing sensitive information, the Five Eyes alliance of security agencies has warned. People with security clearance, military personnel, journalists and academics are among those targeted, the Five Eyes added. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump to nominate former lawyer Blanche for attorney general role

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he will nominate Todd Blanche to serve as attorney general, tapping his former personal lawyer who has aggressively pursued the Republican President's agenda while leading the Justice Department in an acting role. AP

OSLO

'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises'

REUTERS

Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia top the list of the world's most neglected displacement crises, Norwegian Refugee Council, a prominent Norwegian aid group said on Thursday, noting that nationalism and rearmament campaigns grabbed attention in wealthy countries. AFP

Hezbollah rejects latest ceasefire agreement as Israeli strikes kill 4

The Iran-backed militant group's leader, Naim Kassem, calls the negotiations 'absurd, humiliating and insulting'; Lebanese President Joseph Aoun describes the new agreement as 'the last chance to enter a final and comprehensive ceasefire'

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Hezbollah on Thursday rejected the latest ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Lebanese government, and the militant group demanded a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon as more fighting there hampered efforts to end the Iran war.

The Hezbollah announcement came as Israeli strikes killed at least four persons, according to local authorities, and a UN peacekeeper was killed in the crossfire.

Hezbollah leader Naim Kassem, in a written statement read on TV, called the negotiations "absurd, humiliating and insulting". He said the agreement's demand that Hezbollah fighters leave southern Lebanon under fire would mean "surrender, defeat and achieving the enemy's goals".

"What we are concerned about is an end to the aggression, ceasefire and Israel's withdrawal," he said, underscoring that Hezbollah has not made any commitment to stop fighting. "So long as our villages are not safe and are being bombed and destroyed and our people are killed," he said, northern Israel "will not be safe".

Under fire: An Israeli flag held on top of a destroyed building in the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Kela on Thursday. AFP

Following Mr. Kassem's statement, drone alert sirens sounded in several border communities in northern Israel. Israeli media reported that the alerts came shortly after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other officials wrapped up a visit to the area.

The Israeli military later said the sirens were triggered by attempts to intercept several drones that hit near soldiers in southern Lebanon. No injuries were reported.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Thursday called the new agreement "the last chance to enter a final and comprehensive ceasefire". The agreement terms Hezbollah "an enemy" of Israel, the U.S. and Lebanon and calls for dismantling it.

Meanwhile, a top Iranian general called for Israel to pull troops back to where they were when the war began. At that time, Israel held five strategic points along the border.

9 killed in strikes in Gaza overnight, says hospital

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least nine Palestinians overnight, a hospital said on Thursday, even as much of the world's attention was focused on the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The nine people were killed in at least four separate strikes in Gaza City, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies. The hospital said the victims included two women and two children.

Footage of one of the strikes showed a massive hole in an upper floor in what appeared to be a residential apartment building. The blast blew holes through interior walls and scattered blood-stained belongings across the room and into the street.

Blown to bits: A damaged apartment in a residential building after an overnight Israeli strike in Gaza City on Thursday. AP

"They say the war has stopped, but the war has not stopped," said Walid Shbeir, the uncle of one of the men killed in the strikes, as family members sobbed over the bodies of the victims at the hospital. "Every night there is killing, and we have martyrs. Every night, in the morning, in the evening, and at night, this killing is continuous for us."

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strikes.

Israeli forces have carried out repeated air strikes and frequently opened fire on Palestinians near military-held zones, killing more than 936 since the ceasefire took effect, as per Gaza's Health Ministry.

Trump slams House vote to withdraw U.S. troops from Iran war

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday slammed a vote in the U.S. House seeking to order the withdrawal of American troops from the Iran war, suggesting the "unpatriotic" move disrupted negotiations with Tehran.

The largely symbolic vote came "right in the middle of my final negotiations to end the War with the Islamic Republic of Iran," Mr. Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

In a notable rebuke of Mr. Trump, four members of his majority Republicans joined Democrats on

Donald Trump

Wednesday in backing the measure, which passed 215-208 and now heads to the Senate.

Democrats accuse Mr. Trump of violating the Constitution by launching strikes on Iran alongside Israel in late February without congressional authorisation.

Pak. accuses India of 'weaponising' water after treaty suspension

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan said on Thursday two river projects by India would "weaponise" water and violate a major treaty between the neighbouring nations, threatening a response if they move ahead.

India, which has announced the two initiatives separately this year, insists it is within its rights to press ahead with projects on the waters it controls, even though rivers flowing though both countries would be impacted.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi told presspersons that New Delhi had not consulted Islamabad on the two Chenab River projects that he said would undermine the Indus Waters Treaty.

"These projects confirm that India seems to weaponise water," he said. "This carries dangerous implications not only for Pakistan's economy but also for regional stability and international peace and security."

India announced last year it was suspending the bilateral Indus Waters Treaty that governs the use of waterways relied on by hundreds of millions, in the lead up to armed conflict between the neighbours. Mr. Andrabi, however, said the treaty still binds both governments.

Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist, filmmaker Marjane Satrapi dies at 56

Associated Press
PARIS

Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist and filmmaker Marjane Satrapi, a prominent advocate for women's rights and author of *Persepolis*, has died at 56, the French presidency said on Thursday.

"Her passing marks the loss of a leading figure of French culture and an artist devoted to freedom, whose work carried a universal message and earned her immense international acclaim," the French presidency said.

President Emmanuel Macron and his wife "pay tribute to a remarkable artist who transformed an Iranian childhood into a universal fable," the statement said.

News broadcaster *BFM TV* and other French media reported Satrapi has "died of sadness" a little over a year after the death of her husband, Swedish film producer and actor Mattias Ripa, according to a statement from people close to the artist.

The French Academy of Fine Arts, of which she was a member, expressed its deep sadness paying tribute to "a passionate advocate for cinema and film education" who earlier this year created a foundation to help international students come to Paris to study film.

Satrapi is best-known for her monochrome auto-

Marjane Satrapi

biographical comic book and film *Persepolis*, a coming-of-age tale set against the Islamic Revolution in her native Iran.

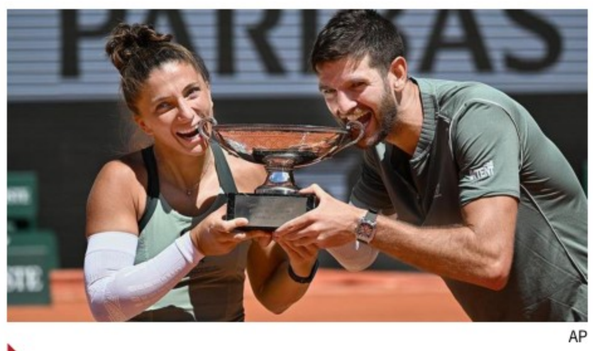
Persepolis won the Film Critics Grand Prix at the Cannes Festival in 2007 and the César Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2008, in addition to being nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 2008 Oscars.

Her graphic novels also include *Broderies* (*Embroideries*) and *Poulet aux prunes* (*Chicken with plums*), which also was adapted into a film. As a filmmaker, she has directed several works including *La Bande des Jotas* (*The Gang of Jotas*) and *Radioactive* (*Madame Curie*), a biography about the Polish physicist Marie Curie.

Satrapi also 2023 coordinated the book *Femme, vie, liberté* (*Woman, Life, Freedom*) together with a group of artists and academics to illustrate the revolts that occurred in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022 at the hands of "morality police".

ITALIAN JOB

French Open: Errani-Vavassori pair retains mixed doubles title



AP

Italy's Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori retained the French Open mixed doubles title on Thursday, defeating American Evan King and Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski 4-6, 6-3, [10-4]. The duo is the first to defend the title since Ivan Dodig and Latisha Chan (2018, 2019). It was the pair's fourth mixed doubles trophy in the last seven Slams.

CALLING IT A DAY

Bharat announces retirement from international cricket

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

K.S. Bharat announced his retirement from international cricket on Thursday. The wicketkeper-batter played seven Tests, scoring 221 runs at an average of 20.09, with a highest score of 44. He also claimed 18 catches and effected one stumping. "To play for my country has been the greatest honour of my life," said Bharat.

HARD-FOUGHT WIN

Pakistan prevails over Australia in a low-scoring game, clinches series

AFP

Pakistan scored a hard-fought four-wicket win over Australia in the third and final ODI in Lahore on Thursday to clinch the series 2-1. **The scores:** Australia 157 in 42 overs (Josh Inglis 65, Shaheen Afridi 3/30) lost to Pakistan 161/6 in 41.5 overs (Babar Azam 40). **Toss:** Australia; **PoM:** Afridi; **PoS:** Arafat Minhas.

FIRST BLOOD

Nissanka and Kusal Mendis shine as Sri Lanka downs West Indies

AFP

Sri Lanka defeated the West Indies by 41 runs in the first ODI at Kingston on Wednesday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 303/7 in 50 overs (Pathum Nissanka 79, Kusal Mendis 72, Charith Asalanka 45) bt West Indies 262 in 49.2 overs (Justin Greaves 45, Shai Hope 56, Dushmantha Chameera 4/67). **Toss:** West Indies; **PoM:** Kusal.

Chwalinska to take on Andreeva for the big prize

The unseeded Pole beats Shnaider to become the first qualifier to make the final at Roland-Garros in the Open era; the eighth-seeded Russian teen capitalises on Ukrainian Kostyuk's erratic play

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Staying on course: Chwalinska continued her fairytale run with a convincing win. REUTERS

Polish World No. 114 Maja Chwalinska made French Open history on Thursday as she beat Diana Shnaider in straight sets to become the first qualifier to go all the way to the final at Roland-Garros in the professional era.

The 24-year-old's 7-6(4), 6-4 victory over Russian 25th seed Shnaider made her only the second woman to come through qualifying and reach a final in any Major since the Open era began, after Emma Raducanu's title run at the US Open in 2021.

Chwalinska will meet eighth seed Mirra Andreeva in Saturday's title-decider. The Russian teenager had raced into her first Grand Slam final by beating an erratic Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 6-1, 6-3 earlier in the day.

Appearing in her first main draw in Paris, Chwalinska, who had on three previous occasions failed to qualify for Roland-Garros, has won nine matches across her three-week French Open campaign to stand on the brink of glory.

Chwalinska said her run to the final was "like a dream" moments after beating Shnaider.

"I don't know what's going on, I just, I dunno what to say. I'm sorry, I'm just very happy," she added to raucous applause.

One aspect of run to the final has been the ice-cold composure she has displayed on court across all her matches. "I'm crazy sometimes also, yeah," Chwalinska said of her emotions. "But I try to stay composed because I know it's the best way for me... But inside there's a storm believe me."

In the first semifinal, the 19-year-old Russian took one hour and 16 minutes to overcome her Ukrainian opponent.

Kostyuk, the 15th seed, had won her previous two meetings with Andreeva, both this year. The most recent was in the final in Madrid as Kostyuk put together a 17-match unbeaten run on the red dirt coming into the Roland-Garros last four.

THE RESULTS

Women: Semifinals: 8-Andreeva bt 15-Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-1, 6-3; Chwalinska (Pol) bt 25-Shnaider 7-6(4), 6-4.
Men: Quarterfinals: Arnaldi (Ita) bt Berrettini (Ita) 7-5, 5-2, retd.
Friday's matches (men's semifinals): *2-Zverev vs. 26-Mensik; 10-Cobolli vs. Arnaldi.*

Kohli set to miss ODI series against Afghanistan

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Virat Kohli is set to miss India's forthcoming ODI series against Afghanistan because of a hamstring injury sustained during the IPL final on Sunday.

Kohli – who now features exclusively in the 50-over format for India – was visibly struggling during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's chase against Gujarat Titans in the summit clash. *The Hindu* understands that the injury to his right hamstring has aggravated since then.

The senior national selection committee is scheduled to meet on Saturday – coinciding with the opening day of the Test match at New Chandigarh – to finalise squads for the upcoming white-ball tours of Ireland and England.

The meeting, besides picking the replacement, will also finalise India's new T20I captain.

A detailed fitness update on Kohli, along with reports concerning Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya, is likely to be presented during the meeting.

Both Rohit and Hardik had been picked in the ODI squad subject to fitness clearance, and suitable replacements, if required, are expected to be announced after the meeting.

Something wrong: Kohli was troubled by a hamstring injury during the IPL final. PTI

"It is obviously big news when it is someone like Virat or Rohit.

"We will assess the fitness of those guys. We have got a few days to decide whether they are fit enough to play and be part of the squad and make adjustments accordingly. I am sure some official communication will come through as soon as the medical team has made a decision," India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said at New Chandigarh on Thursday.

It is believed that Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was named vice-captain in the India-A squad for the tri-series in Sri Lanka starting June 9, has been sounded out as a possible replacement for Kohli.

Kohli last played international cricket in January and was widely expected to carry his outstanding IPL form into the ODI set-up after another prolific season.

The veteran finished IPL 2026 with 675 runs and played a central role in RCB securing a second consecutive title.

However, even during the post-match celebrations, Kohli appeared to be moving gingerly on the dance floor in videos released by the franchise – suggesting the extent of discomfort caused by the injury.

The three-match ODI series will begin in Dharamshala on June 13.

(With inputs from Vivek Krishnan at New Chandigarh).

Robinson. GETTY IMAGES

Robinson leads England's fightback

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Ollie Robinson marked his first Test for more than two years with four wickets, including three in a sensational opening over, as New Zealand suffered a stunning collapse to end with 61 for six at close on the opening day of the first Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Earlier, England was dismissed for just 140 after losing the toss.

But that soon looked an imposing total, with the overcast conditions still in favour of the fast bowlers when New Zealand began its reply in the first of the three-Test series.

The scores: England 140 in 39.4 overs (Harry Brook 56, Kyle Jamieson 5/62) vs New Zealand 61/6 in 19.2 overs (Ollie Robinson 4/10). **Toss:** NZ.

As milestone beckons, onus on Pant to show more game awareness

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

Time to get going: Pant will have to rediscover the level that yielded centuries in Australia, England and South Africa. R.V. MOORTHY

For Rishabh Pant, the switch from the slam-bang madness of the Indian Premier League to the slow grind of Test cricket is a welcome change of scenery.

It is the case in the wake of a cruel few months for the wicketkeeper-batter from Delhi. At the IPL, he appeared bruised whilst steering a sinking ship at Lucknow Super Giants. With runs dwindling and defeats piling up like dusty files at a decrepit office, Pant's decision to step down as captain of the franchise became inevitable long before the announcement last week.

In the midst of the IPL, Pant was also relieved of the vice-captaincy of India's Test team.

It is far from an ideal position to be in for the 28-year-old going into his 50th Test, against Afghanistan at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium from Saturday. If he is to hold onto his spot, Pant will have to rediscover the level that yielded centuries in Australia, England and South Africa.

In the nets on Thursday, Pant, who obliged the requests of a few fans for photographs later, showed a healthy mix of restraint and aggression against spin. According to India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, the message from head coach Gautam Gambhir is for Pant to show greater situational awareness.

"You don't need a formal title to be a leader in an elite set-up like this. Rishabh is committed to being a good role model and a senior player," ten Doeschate told reporters.

"I heard him and Gauti having a chat around that yesterday and how you want to conduct yourself as a senior player extends to your communication and how you are going to play," the Dutchman elaborated. "We don't want to take away all the stuff that he does. Occasionally, if Rishabh can adjust his game to play the situation slightly more, I think that is something you will see him work on".

Whoever plays at No. 3 will be given a long rope, says ten Doeschate

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

The position of No. 3 in India's Test team has been like a revolving door for the past couple of years. As many as seven players have batted there since January 2024.

India's previous red-ball assignment against South Africa was an apt microcosm of the travails at that vital slot. On a raging turner at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, all-rounder Washington Sundar was unexpectedly moved up to No. 3. Once India suffered an ignominious defeat, Washington was promptly shunted down the order and Sai Sudharsan was brought back for the second Test in Guwahati.

The latter is in contention at one-drop for the Test against Afghanistan as well, but he is facing fierce competition from Devdutt Padikkal. The southpaw from Karnataka was in prolific touch during the recently-concluded domestic season.

While Padikkal did have a fruitful batting stint at practice on a sweltering Thursday afternoon, Sai Sudharsan was notably among the first lot of batters to head to the nets.

Probed on the instability at No. 3, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate underlined the need to give one of these batters a fair chance. "Look, there have been a lot of changes in that spot and that is not ideal," ten Doeschate conceded. "I think you need to look at the incumbents for that role and maybe stick with someone. It is a difficult position to bat at.

"Devdutt comes in with a ton of runs in domestic cricket across all formats. Obviously, Sai has had a nice IPL with Gujarat Titans. Whoever plays will be given a long rope".

Afghan skipper Shahidi calls for more opportunities in the five-day format

Shahidi. R.V. MOORTHY

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

Eight summers ago, Afghanistan entered the Test fold with a game against India at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Very few Tests

Since that momentous occasion, which although ended in a thumping innings defeat, the Afghans have gone on to feature in just 11 more completed Tests (a game against New Zealand in Greater Noida in 2024 was abandoned without a ball bowled).

In the lead-up to another Test against India, at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi called for his team to get more Test assignments.

Inexperienced bunch

He has a fairly inexperienced squad at his disposal for the challenge against Shubman Gill's men. "We need to have more opportunities to build our Test team.

"You know, we play only one or two Test matches every year, so the boys don't have that much experience of playing red-ball cricket.

"But when it comes to our domestic structure, we have good First Class cricket in our country.

"Every boy plays six-seven games every year with the red ball," Shahidi said on Thursday.

INBRIEF

Knicks turn the tables on Spurs in NBA Finals game-one

New York Knicks erased a 14-point third-quarter deficit to beat Victor Wembanyama and the San Antonio Spurs 105-95 in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday. Jalen Brunson scored 30 points to lead the Knicks, who seized the upper hand in the best-of-seven series with a gritty win on the Spurs' home court, where game two will be played on Friday.

Martinez Novell is new Leverkusen coach

Bayer Leverkusen on Thursday announced the appointment of Spaniard Carles Martinez Novell as manager, replacing former coach Kasper Hjulmand with immediate effect. The 42-year-old Martinez Novell, who stepped down as Toulouse coach at the end of the 2025-26 season, signed a deal running until 2028.

Tait resigns as Bangladesh fast bowling coach

Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has resigned from his role as Bangladesh's fast bowling coach with immediate effect, ending a 12-month stint with the National team as he looks to spend more time with his young family. The 43-year-old, who joined the Bangladesh set-up in May 2025 on a contract that was scheduled to run until November 2027, announced his decision on Thursday, as per *ESPNcricinfo*.

Napoli confirms Conte's exit; Allegri tipped as new coach

Serie A runner-up Napoli confirmed on Thursday that coach Antonio Conte will leave the club after two years with former AC Milan manager Massimiliano Allegri tipped to take over. "Napoli announces that an agreement has been reached with Antonio Conte and his staff to part ways before the natural expiry of their contracts."

LIVE TELECAST

England vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

French Open: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 6 p.m.

International Friendlies: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10.30 & 11.30 p.m.

West Indies vs Sri Lanka: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 1 a.m. (Sunday).

Praggnanandhaa doing nothing special while tackling Carlsen: Suri

The Indian GM's coach says his ward and he are working as hard as they can; feels that the Norwegian is still a 'monstrous player' but at the same time, is not invincible

CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Keep it going: Suri says the strategy adopted by Praggnanandhaa will continue as long as it is working. NORWAY CHESS

There's nothing special that R. Praggnanandhaa is doing to prepare for games against Magnus Carlsen but 'whatever is being done is working,' said his coach Vaibhav Suri.

With the Indian GM having done the double against the World No.1 in Norway Chess 2026, Suri said, "I don't think so (on any special preparation). If we are, I will make sure we do continue it. (We) are trying to stay as motivated as we can and trying to keep working as hard as we can."

Like Praggnanandhaa, he too said Carlsen is "still extremely strong.

Maybe he's just not as motivated as he was a few years ago, but is still a monstrous player."

Further, Suri, a GM himself, told *The Hindu*, everyone has immense respect for Carlsen.

Key takeaway

"I think the key takeaway at least for us is he's great, but maybe he's not invincible... he's beatable."

Praising Praggnanandhaa, he said, "to beat him twice in a classical game is not at all a small feat."

Asked if the 20-year-old Chennai GM had put the below-par performance in the recent Candidates tournament behind him, Suri said, "his level of play was not bad (in Cyprus).

The result obviously wasn't encouraging. I think as with most things, you accept and you move on, which I think he did fairly quickly."

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Hariharan-Arjun pair enters last eight; Sindhu and Ayush make their exit

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
JAKARTA

Bouncing back: Hariharan and Arjun rallied from a game down to seal a quarterfinal spot. FILE PHOTO

The men's doubles pair of A. Hariharan and M.R. Arjun upset higher-ranked Malaysian duo of Aaron Tai and Kang Khai Xing 16-21, 21-15, 21-19 to reach their first-ever BWF World Tour Super 1000 quarterfinals at the Indonesia Open here on Thursday.

The Indians lost the opening game but bounced back in the second to force a decider. Though trailing the final game until 16-17, they regrouped to seal victory at 48 minutes.

In women's singles, P.V. Sindhu suffered a second successive defeat to World No. 1 An Se Young in as many weeks to bow out in the round of 16. Sindhu, who had lost to the South Korean in the quarterfinals of Singapore Open, went down 17-21, 14-21.

In men's singles, Ayush Shetty lost to Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong 21-16, 13-21, 14-21 in the pre-quarterfinals.

In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde were outplayed by defending champions Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France 13-21, 12-21.

The results (round-of-16):
Men: Lee Cheuk Yiu (HKg) bt Ayush Shetty 16-21, 21-13, 21-14.
Doubles: A. Hariharan & M.R. Arjun bt Aaron Tai & Kang Khai Xing (Mas) 16-21, 21-15, 21-19.
Women: An Se Young (Kor) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-17, 21-14.
Mixed doubles: Thom Gicquel & Delphine Delrue (Fra) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Gadde 21-13, 21-12.

daCunha/AB/1105

Shaili, Dev Meena to spearhead India in Asian u-23 c'ships

In focus: Pole vaulters Dev Meena and Kuldeep will hope to come with a good show. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Pole vaulters Dev Meena and Kuldeep Kumar, long jumper Shaili Singh and javelin thrower Shivam Lohakare were on Thursday named in India's 54-member team for the inaugural Asian under-23 Athletics Championships. to be held in Ordos, China, from July 9 to 12.

Both Dev Meena and Kuldeep set a new National record (5.45m) while Lohakare won gold with a throw of 81.71m at the Federation Cup in Ranchi last month.

Shaili clinched silver at the 2021 World U-20 Championships in Nairobi.

The squad:
Men: Vibhaskar Kumar, S. Sam Vasanth (100m/ 4x100m relay); Harsh Santosh Raut, P. Mohamed Shan, Anant Melge, Aniket Nalawade (4x100m relay); Astik Pradhan, Setu Mishra (400m/ 4x400m relay); Aman Chaudhary, M. Sharan, Sahil Malik, Tarandeep Singh (4x400m relay); Shakeel, Vinod Kumar Bhanot (800m); Sakir, Ritik Deol (1,500m); Shivaji Parashuram (5,000m/ 10,000m); Vinod Singh (5,000m); Shailesh Kushwaha (10,000m); Sharuk Khan (3,000m steeplechase); Sudeep (high jump); Mohammed Muhassin (triple jump); Dev Kumar Meena, Kuldeep Kumar (pole vault); Mohd. Atta Sazid (long jump); Bharatpreet Singh (discus); Shivam Lohakare, Anand Singh (javelin); Harshit Kumar (hammer), Abhijit Bhosale (decathlon); G. Sachin (21km race walk).

Women: Kiruthika, S. Akshaya, V. Sudheeksha, Sanjana, Abinaya Rajarajan (4x100m relay); Huidrom Bhumeshwor (800m/1,500m); Vaishnavi Rawal (800m); Shreeya Rajesh, Sabita Toppo (100m hurdles); Prachi Devkar (3,000m steeplechase); Nitika Akare (pole vault); Shaili Singh (long jump).

Vidhi, V.S. Anupriya (both shot put); Priya (discus); Shravani Sangle (400m hurdles/ 4x400m relay); Nofisa Khatun, Tahura Khatun, Boomika Nehate, Sandra Mol Sabu, C. Janice Stella (4x400m relay); K.A. Anamika (heptathlon); Aarti (21km race walk).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Arya and Spruha win gold with meet records at State athletics meet

S. Arya created a new men's long jump meet record at the Karnataka State senior athletics meet at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Thursday.

His winning leap of 7.98m bettered S.E. Samsheer's mark of 7.91m set in 2019. Purushotham, who claimed silver with 7.97m, also went past Samsheer's record.

Spruha Naik (48.83m) eclipsed Amreen's women's hammer throw meet record of 46.54m.

The results (winners):
Men: 100m: Aryan Manoj (Bangalore Urban), 10.51s.
110m hurdles: Ratangouda Patil (Bangalore Rural), 15.26.
400m: Theerthesh Shetty (Dakshina Kannada), 47.09;
800m: Bopanna Kalappa Thelapanda (Mysuru), 1:48.33.
5,000m: Onkar Rajendra Panhalkar (Bagalkot), 14:34.55.
Triple jump: Yashas Gowda (Mandya), 15.08m.
Long jump: S. Arya (Bangalore Rural), 7.98 (NMR; OMR: S.E. Samsheer, 7.91, 2019).
High jump: Jesse Sandesh (Bangalore Urban), 2.15.
Discus throw: Smit Bhavesh Javiya (Dakshina Kannada), 48.9.
Javelin throw: Shashank Patil (Belagavi), 74.18.
Hammer throw: Sachin (Koppal), 61.17.
Women: 100m: Prakruthi Roopa (Chikkaballapur), 11.65s.
100m hurdles: Shreeya Rajesh (Bangalore Urban), 13.71.
400m: Priya Habbathan Mohan (Tumkur), 54.67.
800m: Vaishnavi Rawal (Belagavi), 2:11.13.
5,000m: Aradhana (Bangalore Urban), 17:21.70.
Triple jump: K.N. Bhumika (Shimoga), 12.58m.
Shot put: V. Ambika (Mysore), 13.75.
Hammer throw: Spruha Naik (Belagavi), 48.83 (NMR, OMR: Amreen, 46.54, 2022).
Long jump: Pavana Nagaraj (Bangalore Urban), 6.02.

Big win for Hindu Socials

Hindu Socials hammered NP Kempe Gowda FC 6-0 in the BDFA 'C' division football league on Thursday.

The results: Vel Socials bt Netaji 1-0; East West bt Goans 6-0.

Hindu Socials bt NP Kempe Gowda 6-0.

Sporting Youths drew with Shining Star 0-0.

Freedom bt Indian Knights 4-1.

Minerva bt Devanahalli 4-1.

Falcon HC steamrollers Coorg Blues HC

Falcon Hockey Club defeated Coorg Blues Hockey Club 7-1 in the KSHA Super Division league on Thursday.

The results: Falcon 7 (Suresh 11, 43, Nitin 28, 32, 33, Shankar Patil 47, Appachu 49) bt Coorg Blues 1 (Bharath 41).

National Coach Accreditation Board planned

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry is planning to create a dedicated National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB) to improve the standards of coaching in the country and bridge the gap between demand and supply of resources.

The decision follows recommendations from the P. Gopichand-led Task Force's submitted in January. The NCAB will be tasked with, among other things, creating a National Coach Registry and preparation of Long Term Athlete Development-based coaching standards.

The project is likely to be initially implemented in a couple of federations.

HATC in Shillong

The ministry has also approved the conversion of Sports Authority of India's existing training centre in Shillong into a specialised High Altitude Training Centre (HATC) at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore in partnership with the NSE Foundation.

Mansi makes u-20 squad for the Asians

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mansi Lather, the recently crowned under-23 Asian champion who narrowly missed out on the Asian Games squad losing the selection trials in the final, dominated the proceedings at the under-20 Asian Championships trials here on Wednesday.

Mansi beat Kirti in the 68kg at the selection trials for the upcoming event in Thailand from June 26.

Sisters Samruddhi Satish and Gauri Satish also won their respective trials in the under-15 33kg and 39kg respectively.

Ronak, Lacky make it

Among the men, Ronak in the 125kg and Lacky in the 87kg, who both fell short in the Asian Games trials last week, made the cut in under-20.

Akshay Rana in the 97kg would lead the Indian charge in the under-20 Greco-Roman.

While the women's trials were held at the IGI Stadium here, the men's trials in Greco-Roman and freestyle were held simultaneously in Lucknow.

The squad: Women: under-15: 33kg: Samruddhi Satish; **36kg:** Divya Rani; **39kg:** Gauri Satish; **42kg:** Dnyaneshwari.

46kg: Vinakshi; **50kg:** Mohini; **54kg:** Nisha; **58kg**: Dipanshi; **62kg:** Anjali Santosh; **66kg:** Disha Shokeen; **u-20: 50kg:** Parveen; **53kg:** Muskan.

55kg: Kajal; **57kg**: Manya; **59kg**: Komal; **62kg:** Savita; **65kg:** Muskan.

68kg: Mansi Lather; **72kg:** Manisha; **76kg:** Kajal

Men: Greco-Roman: under15: 38kg: Saurav; **41kg:** Rohit Mali; **45kg:** Rajveer Singh.

48kg: Yash; **52kg:** Tushar Khokhar.

57kg: Prayas Dhounchak; **62kg:** Darpan Chaudhari; **68kg:** Kushal Kajal; **75kg:** Gaurav Gundaji; **85kg:** Jatin; **under-20: 55kg:** Neeraj Patel; **60kg:** Suraj; **63kg:** Aaryan Malik; **67kg:** Anuj; **72kg:** Vinit; **77kg:** Dheeraj Malik.

82kg: Himanshu; **87kg:** Vikash Dalal; **97kg:** Akshay Rana; **130kg:** Dishant

Freestyle: under-15: 38kg: Jatin; **41kg:** Gautam; **45kg:** Vansh; **48kg:** Harshvardhan; **52kg:** Rathmesh.

57kg: Nitesh; **62kg:** Naitak; **68kg:** Arman.

75kg: Harshad Chemte; **85kg:** Vivek Chauhan; **under-20: 57kg:** Rohit; **61kg:** Pushp; **65kg:** Pavan Dhayagude; **70kg:** Sumitkumar Bharaskar; **74kg:** Adarsh Patil.

79kg: Saurabh Yadav.

86kg: Sahil Dalal; **92kg:** Nikhil; **97kg:** Lacky; **125kg:** Ronak.

Could have run the 100m under 10s with better training support: Anil

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Good tidings: Former sprinter Anil Kumar is happy that the 100m is making headlines again in India.

It is one of the ironies of life that the once fastest man in India can now barely jog 10 metres. But P. Anil Kumar, who held National records in 100m (10.21s unratified) and 200m (20.73s) at the start of the millennium, has taken it in his stride. However, he is disappointed that he was never given his due for his achievements.

The 51-year-old Anil, now settled in the UK, is happy that the 100m is making headlines again in India.

"I follow Indian athletics, and I was happy when Gurindervir Singh broke the 10.10 barrier in the 100m. I had always believed that Indians had the ability to clock under 10 seconds, and it should have happened 10 years ago. I think this is a rare good phase in Indian sprinting, with four good runners pushing each other. Gurindervir has definitely gained from his rivalry with Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar and Amlan Borgohain. Their rivalry has pushed the mark from 10.20 to under 10.10 in just five years, and the future looks very promising," said the former Olympian.

> It pains me when no one remembers that I broke Milkha Singh's long-standing record in the 200m

Anil, who ran with a 'pawing action', said the style took a heavy toll on his right knee and that he had to undergo surgery.

"I never had any serious injury in my career. Obviously, there was wear and tear, and it snapped while I was playing basketball with my trainees at SAI, Kollam a few years ago. I had to undergo a surgery and now, I can't jog even 10 metres. Injuries are part of an athlete's life. I am okay with it. However, it pains me when no one remembers that I broke Milkha Singh's long-standing record in the 200m," he said.

Lack of competition

The former Olympian said he lacked competition domestically and often raced against the clock. His 100m national record was not ratified because of the absence of a doping test.

Anil believes he could have gone under 10 seconds with better training support.

"I knew I had it in me to go under 10 seconds in the 100m. But I needed specialised training. I trained in Russia for two months before I set the 200m national record, and it helped me. My request to train in the US for two years wasn't approved by the Army, and the federation wasn't keen either. It still remains my biggest disappointment. Apart from my national records, I consider the silver medal in the 100m at the Jakarta Asian Athletics Championships in 2000 my proudest moment," he said.